

Property Crime In Utah

**Original Research Using
Incident Based Crime Data**

State of Utah
Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice
Research and Data Section

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

It has been reported that Utah has one of the highest crime rates in the nation. Historically, property crimes have been responsible for putting Utah on the top of the list. This report has been prepared to assist policy makers identify the real crime problems in Utah, which will enable them to formulate a legislative strategy to address these problems.

We will journey through the process of identifying crime and how it is reported. On our journey, we will find that Utah leads the nation in the rate of larceny offenses. However, in other crime categories, Utah is either similar to, or much lower than the rest of the nation. Due to the sheer volume of larceny offenses, our state is often depicted as having one of the highest overall crime rates in the nation.

Property crime is where Utah stands out. This report examines the specifics

of property crime, such as: where the crime is occurring; what type of property is being taken; and, identifying the perpetrators.

However, before we start, we need to establish a foundation of crime in Utah. This foundation includes the process of collecting crime data; how Utah compares with the rest of the nation in terms of overall crime; and the changes in the crime rate over the past decade.

Crime Reporting In Utah

In order to understand crime, it is important to know how crime is categorized and reported. This is not how crime is reported by the public to law enforcement, but how law enforcement reports crime to the State. Law enforcement agencies, including both city police departments and county sheriffs, report crime to the Utah Department of Public Safety on a regular basis. Even though crime reporting is on a voluntary basis, nearly every law enforcement agency is currently reporting crime data.

Each year, the Department of Public Safety publishes a ***Crime In Utah*** book that outlines all of the crime reported during the previous year. It is from these reports that we determine whether crime has increased or decreased.

Even though crime reporting is on a voluntary basis, nearly every law enforcement agency is currently reporting crime data.

Utah, like the rest of the country, is currently in the process of changing the way crime is reported. Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) was developed over sixty years ago by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), within the United States Department of Justice. UCR is a standardized way of reporting crime that allows comparisons of crime data from state-to-state across the nation. Prior to the development of UCR, it was nearly impossible to compare Utah's crime situation with a neighboring state.

UCR is often called "Summary Based Reporting," it is a system that basically

counts the number of crimes that occur over a certain period of time. Although many different types of crime are reported, the most frequently reported crimes compose *Index Crimes*. The Index Crimes are not necessarily the worst crimes (although some are). Instead, they are a group of eight crimes that provide a barometer of safety within a community, similar to what the Dow Jones does for the stock market. The eight Index Crimes are divided into violent crimes and property crimes. Violent crimes include murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Property crimes include burglary, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Among the many shortcomings of UCR data is that it only counts the most serious offense that occurs in a criminal event. For example, if a botched robbery turns into a robbery/murder, only the murder is counted in the UCR statistics. Another shortcoming of UCR data is the lack of detail it provides about crime. Crime is more than just an event. Crime occurs at specific locations, at certain times of the day, and to a variety of types of victims. The offenders vary in age, gender, and race. Specific relationships often exist between the victim and the offender. This detailed information must be collected if we are to develop policies and interventions that address targeted problems.

A case in point is larceny (commonly referred to as theft). As we have identified, larceny is one of Utah's biggest problems. It is difficult to address this problem when all we know is that 45,000 incidences occurred during the year. If we knew where these incidences occurred, whether they were shoplifting, purse snatching, or thefts from automobiles, then we could develop a specific strategy or intervention.

In response to this reporting problem, the FBI developed the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Rather than

Uniform Crime Reporting, NIBRS provides *incident based reporting*. When several crimes occur in one criminal episode, each is detailed in NIBRS. Not only does it record all incidents, it also describes (with 52 data elements), characteristics of the crime, such as: location of the offense; the time of day it occurred; and the relationship between the victim and the offender. Details available through *incident based reporting* are exhibited as we analyze property crime in Utah.

▽ Looking specifically at Utah between 1997 and 1998, the total index crime rate decreased 11.3%; violent crime decreased 7.8%; and property crime decreased 11.5%.

▽ Burglary decreased 17.6%; larceny/theft decreased 9.3%; and motor vehicle theft rate decreased 21.3%. These crimes are the focus of this report.

Overall Crime Status In Utah

Before we narrow our focus on property crime, let's review the characteristics of crime in Utah today compared to the past decade. The rates of UCR Index crimes for Utah and the United States from 1988 to 1998 are shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Utah and United States Crime Rates 1988 to 1998

Utah	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
TOTAL CRIME	5,575.2	5,565.2	5,615.5	5,506.4	5,605.8	5,203.9	5,247.9	5,815.2	5,663.4	5,677.4	5,036.4
Violent Crime	241.8	257.0	281.6	281.0	287.7	299.6	296.0	314.0	312.8	317.3	292.6
Property Crime	5,333.4	5,308.3	5,333.8	5,225.4	5,318.1	4,904.2	4,951.9	5,501.3	5,350.6	5,360.0	4,743.8
Murder/Non-Neg Mans.	2.8	2.7	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.2	2.9	3.1	2.9	2.6	2.8
Rape	23.2	28.6	37.7	44.5	44.4	43.5	41.0	40.7	39.4	44.0	39.3
Robbery	53.8	52.7	56.7	54.6	55.8	59.1	62.7	64.6	65.3	65.3	63.3
Aggravated Assault	162.0	173.0	184.3	179.0	184.5	193.8	189.4	205.6	205.1	205.4	187.2
Burglary	877.6	874.7	868.3	818.5	869.6	781.4	769.8	776.9	799.5	849.7	699.8
Larceny/Theft	4,223.3	4,176.3	4,202.0	4,143.4	4,185.2	3,861.1	3,816.6	4,329.8	4,128.8	4,072.7	3,693.5
Motor Vehicle Theft	214.4	229.7	235.3	235.5	234.8	239.6	339.7	372.7	405.8	421.1	331.6
Arson	18.1	27.6	28.2	28.0	28.5	22.1	25.7	21.8	16.4	16.5	19.0
United States	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
TOTAL CRIME	5,727.7	5,806.7	5,838.3	5,933.6	5,695.7	5,517.3	5,406.0	5,305.4	5,107.8	4,922.7	4,615.5
Violent Crime	640.6	666.9	729.8	758.3	757.7	746.4	716.0	684.2	634.1	610.8	566.4
Property Crime	5,087.1	5,139.8	5,108.5	5,175.3	4,938.0	4,770.9	4,690.0	4,621.2	4,473.7	4,311.9	4,049.1
Murder/Non-Neg Mans.	8.5	8.7	9.4	9.8	9.3	9.5	9.0	8.2	7.4	6.8	6.3
Rape	37.8	38.3	41.1	42.3	42.8	40.7	39.2	37.1	36.1	35.9	34.4
Robbery	222.1	234.3	256.3	272.8	263.7	255.9	237.7	220.8	202.4	186.1	165.2
Aggravated Assault	372.2	385.6	423.0	433.4	441.9	440.3	430.1	418.1	388.2	382.0	360.5
Burglary	1,316.2	1,283.6	1,232.5	1,252.3	1,168.5	1,099.6	1,041.6	987.1	943.0	919.6	862.0
Larceny/Theft	3,151.7	3,189.6	3,185.9	3,229.7	3,103.9	3,033.8	3,025.0	3,043.3	2,975.9	2,886.5	2,728.1
Motor Vehicle Theft	586.1	634.0	655.9	659.1	631.7	605.5	591.1	560.2	525.9	505.8	459.0
Arson	33.2	32.6	34.0	34.2	33.9	31.9	32.2	30.5	28.9	41.2	38.9

Source: *Crime In Utah*, 1988 to 1998. *Crime In the United States*, 1988 to 1998.

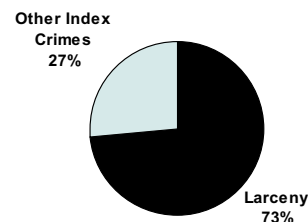
Comparing Utah's crime rate to the United States for 1998, a clear picture of some of the differences between Utah and the rest of the nation is provided in **Table 2**.

- ▽ Overall, Utah's total index crime rate in 1998 was 9.1% higher than the rest of the nation.
- ▽ Utah's violent crime rate was 48.3% lower than the national rate, while Utah's property crime rate was 17.2% higher than the national rate.
- ▽ Utah's murder rate was 56.1% lower than the national rate; Utah's robbery rate was 61.7% lower than the national rate; Utah's larceny/theft rate was 35.4% higher than the national rate.

Overall Property Crime Analysis

As stated previously, Utah's high property crime rate drives our overall index crime rate. Utah has 35.4% more larcenies than the national average. That figure,

— **Figure 1: Larceny Proportional Analysis** —



Source: *Crime In Utah*, 1998.

coupled with data shown in **Figure 1**, clearly shows larceny impacts Utah's total index crime rate. In 1998, larceny alone accounted

Utah has 35.4% more larcenies than national average...Utah ranks first in the nation in terms of larceny offenses.

for 73% of the total index crime rate. To illustrate this, if Utah's murder rate increased 5%, the total index crime rate would increase 0.003%. If Utah's larceny rate increased by the same 5%, the total index crime rate would increase 3.7%. The impact of larceny/theft offenses on the total index crime rate is enormous.

— **Table 2: Crime Rate Difference 1998, Utah and United States** —

	Utah	United States	Percentage Difference
TOTAL CRIME	5,036.4	4,615.5	9.1%
Violent Crime	292.6	566.4	-48.3
Property Crime	4,743.8	4,049.1	17.2
Murder/Non-Neg Mans.	2.8	6.3	-56.1
Rape	39.3	34.4	14.2
Robbery	63.3	165.2	-61.7
Aggravated Assault	187.2	360.5	-48.1
Burglary	699.8	862.0	-18.8
Larceny/Theft	3,693.5	2,728.1	35.4
Motor Vehicle Theft	331.6	459.0	-27.8
Arson	19.0	38.9	-51.1

Source: *Crime In Utah*, 1998. *Crime In the United States*, 1998.

Adjacent **Figure 2** shows the national property crime rankings among western states. Utah ranks as the 7th highest total property crime state in the nation.

However, again it is larceny theft that is driving this high ranking. Looking at the crimes of burglary and motor vehicle theft, Utah sits more towards the middle of the pack. Looking at larceny/theft, Utah has the highest ranking in the nation.

It is interesting to note that Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming are consistently ranked as having some of the lowest property crime rates in the nation.

Many of the western states rank high in property crime. Arizona and New Mexico rank first and third, respectively on total property crime rate. Washington and Oregon rank fourth and sixth nationally.

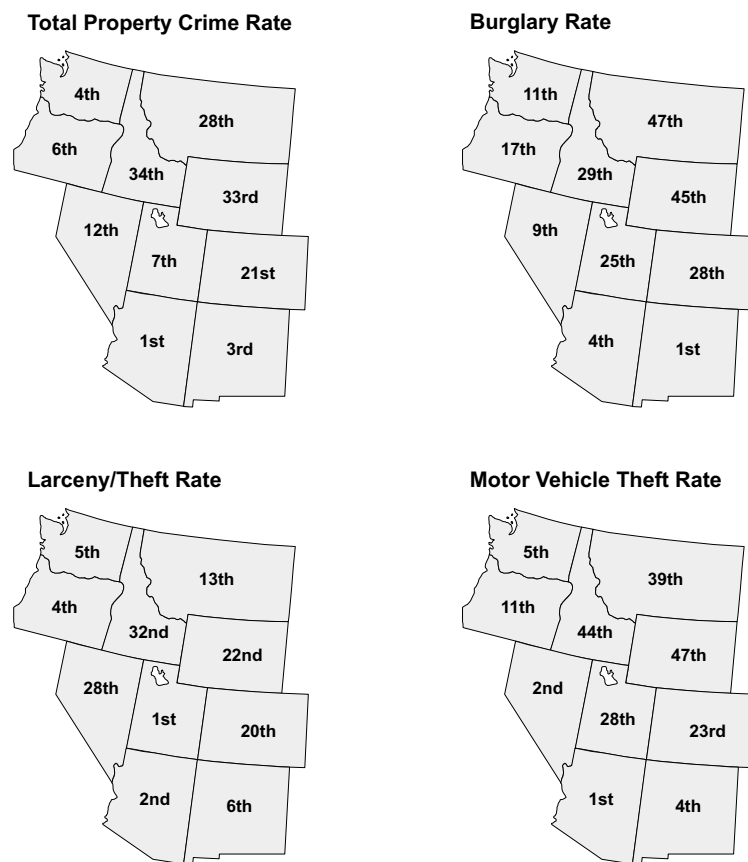
When viewing the nation as a whole, **Figure 3**, the western states and southern/Midwest states have the highest total property crime rates in the nation. New England and northern Midwest states are much lower.

As indicated, burglary rates are higher in Southeastern and Southwestern states, while the rates are lower in Northwestern and New England states. A cluster of Midwestern states, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, and Texas, also have relatively high burglary rates.

As expected, the geographic distribution of state's larceny/theft rates is similar to the total property crime rate distribution. Again, this is due to the fact that larceny/theft has a dominant influence on the total crime rate.

Most of the states with higher larceny/theft rates are found west of the Mississippi River. Washington, Oregon, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico are all categorized as having some of the highest larceny/theft rates in the

— **Figure 2: Western States Property Crime Ranking** —



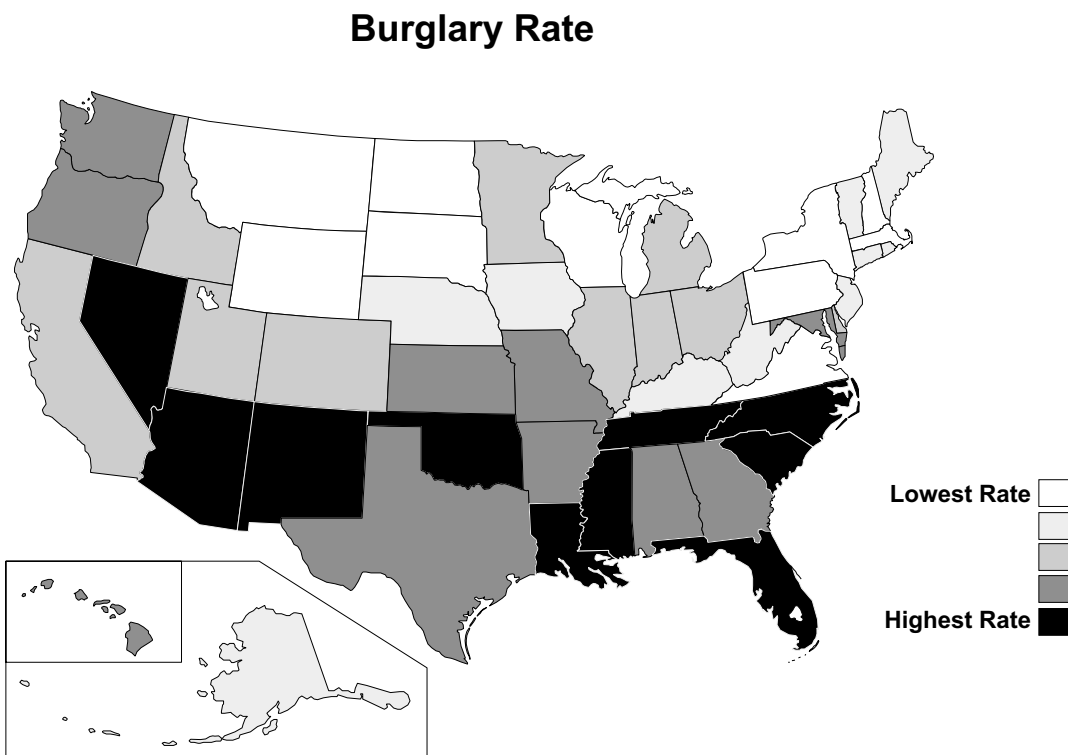
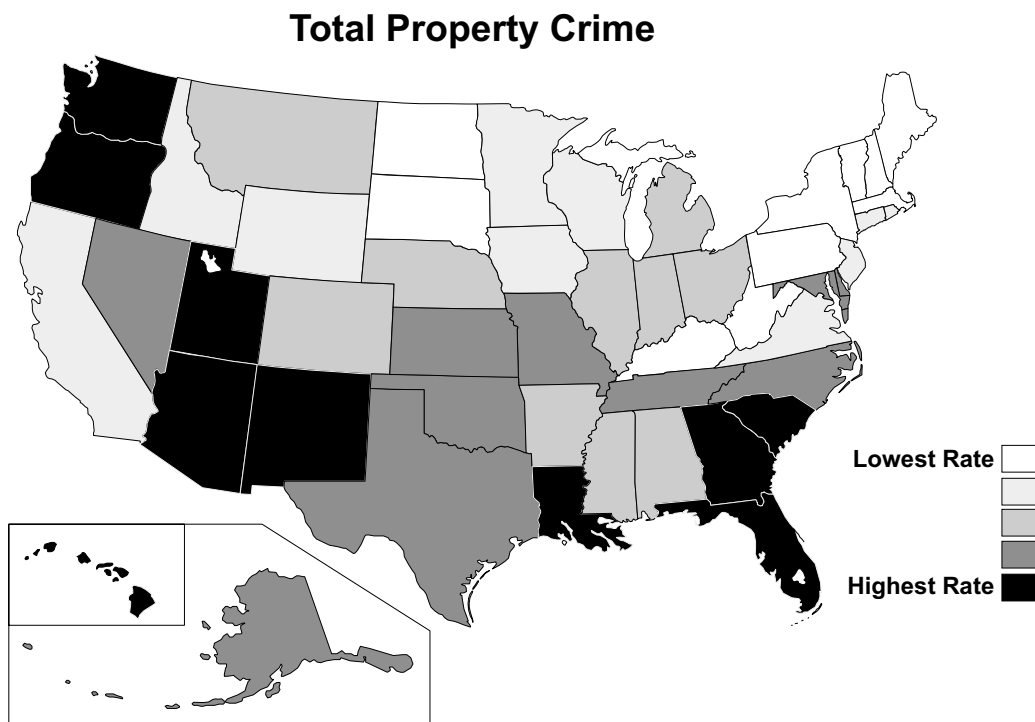
Source: *Crime In the United States*, 1998.

nation. New England states and northern Midwest states had some of the lowest larceny/theft rates in the nation.

America's Southwest and Southeast states had the highest motor vehicle theft rates, while central northern and New England states had the lowest motor vehicle theft rates.

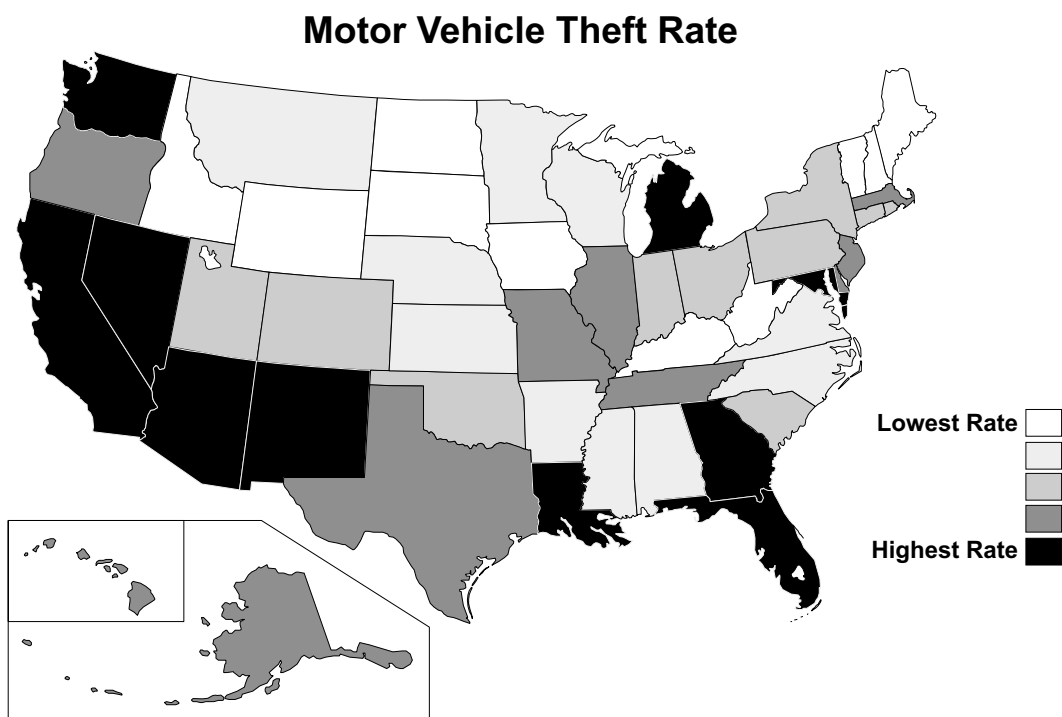
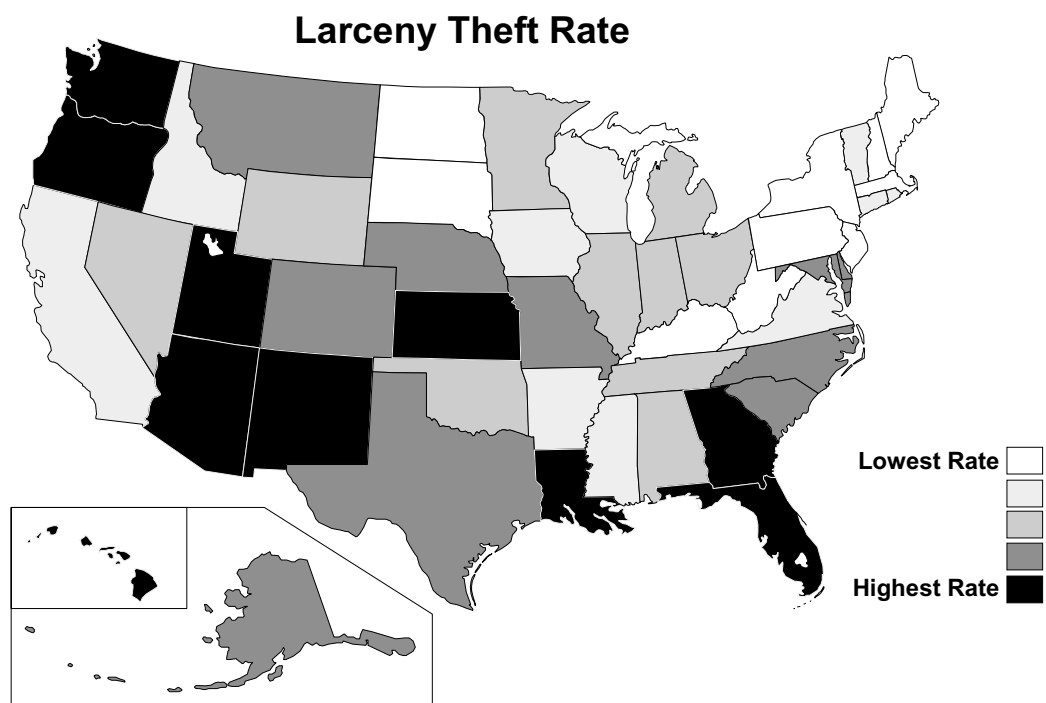
The geographical analysis supports the contention that Utah is a fairly typical state in terms of index crimes, with the exception of larceny/theft. Utah's index crime rates appear to parallel crime rates within the same region of the nation.

Figure 3: United States Property Crime Rate Comparison



Source: *Crime In the United States*, 1998.

Figure 3: United States Property Crime Rate Comparison, Continued



Source: *Crime In the United States*, 1998.

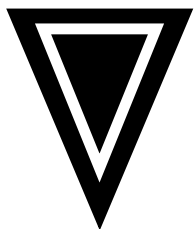
Summary

Property crime in Utah is certainly worth analysis. By moving to the more detailed incident form of crime reporting, analysts and policy makers will be able to more accurately identify crime problems and develop solutions to these problems. Utah is moving toward an incident based reporting system, although it has been slow. Not all law enforcement agencies have made the transition.

Based upon data we do have, property crime is a serious problem in Utah. Although Utah has a relatively low violent crime rate, our property crime rate is high enough to elevate Utah into one of the highest overall crime rates in the nation. More specifically, the larceny/theft rate in Utah is 35.4% higher than the national rate. Because this offense occurs with greater frequency than any other index crime, it causes Utah's overall crime rate to be high.

In other property crime rates, namely burglary and motor vehicle theft, Utah is similar to other states in the nation.

Because larceny is largest in Utah's crime profile, it will be addressed in some detail in the following chapter.



CHAPTER 2

Larceny In Utah

Larceny is defined as “the unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession, or constructive possession of another person.” Utah has the highest larceny rate in the nation.

This chapter begins with a statewide larceny analysis using UCR data, and then narrows the focus to the jurisdictions in Utah with the highest number of larceny offenses during 1998.

As noted in the previous chapter, Utah’s larceny rate is 35.4% higher than the national rate. Trying to pinpoint what types of larcenies occur in Utah will help focus crime reduction strategies on specific problems.

In both Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) and Incident Based Crime Reporting (IBR), larceny is defined by the following list of offenses: pocket-picking, purse-snatching, shoplifting, theft from a building, theft from coin-operated machine or device, theft from a motor vehicle, theft of motor vehicle parts or accessories, and all other larceny. **Figure 4** depicts each of these types of larceny.

Statewide Larceny Analysis

The trends of larceny type crimes are examined in **Figure 5**. Each chart describes a specific type of larceny as a proportion of all larcenies. For example, theft from a motor vehicle accounted for 20.8% of all larcenies during 1990 and 27.8% of all larcenies in 1998.

The dotted line in each chart is representative of a trend to that specific type of larceny. In examining the trend lines, it is clear that theft from motor vehicle and purse snatching are increasing in their proportion of larceny offenses. As these larceny types increase, other larceny types must decrease.

This is evident in pocket picking, bicycle theft, theft from buildings, and shoplifting. Theft from coin machines and theft of vehicle parts and accessories both show a shallow decreasing trend.

By using the type of data depicted in **Figure 5**, we can begin to identify growing larceny problems in Utah. If we want to decrease Utah's overall index crime rate, focusing on larceny/theft will be a good place to start. Moreover, we may want to pursue policies and programs that target larceny offenses that are on an increasing trend, such as theft from a motor vehicle or purse-snatching.

However, **Figure 5** also shows which types of larceny occur with the greatest frequency. In 1998, theft from a motor vehicle accounted for 27.8% of all larcenies; shoplifting 18.5%, theft of motor vehicle parts or

— Figure 4: Larceny Crime Definitions —

Pocket-picking: The theft of articles from another person's physical possession by stealth where the victim usually does not become immediately aware of the theft.

Purse-snatching: The grabbing or snatching of a purse, handbag, etc., from the physical possession of another person.

Shoplifting: The theft, by someone other than an employee of the victim, of goods or merchandise exposed for sale.

Theft From Building: A theft from within a building which is either open to the general public or where the offender has legal access.

Theft From Coin-Operated Machine or Device: A theft from a machine or device which is operated or activated by the use of coins.

Theft From Motor Vehicle: The theft of articles from a motor vehicle, whether locked or unlocked.

Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories: The theft of any part or accessory affixed to the interior or exterior of a motor vehicle in a manner which would make the item an attachment of the vehicle, or necessary for its operation.

All Other Larceny: All thefts which do not fit any of the definitions of the specific subcategories of Larceny/Theft listed above.

Source: *Uniform Crime Reporting, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Volume 1, Data Collection Guidelines*. U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. September 1996. pp. 30-31.

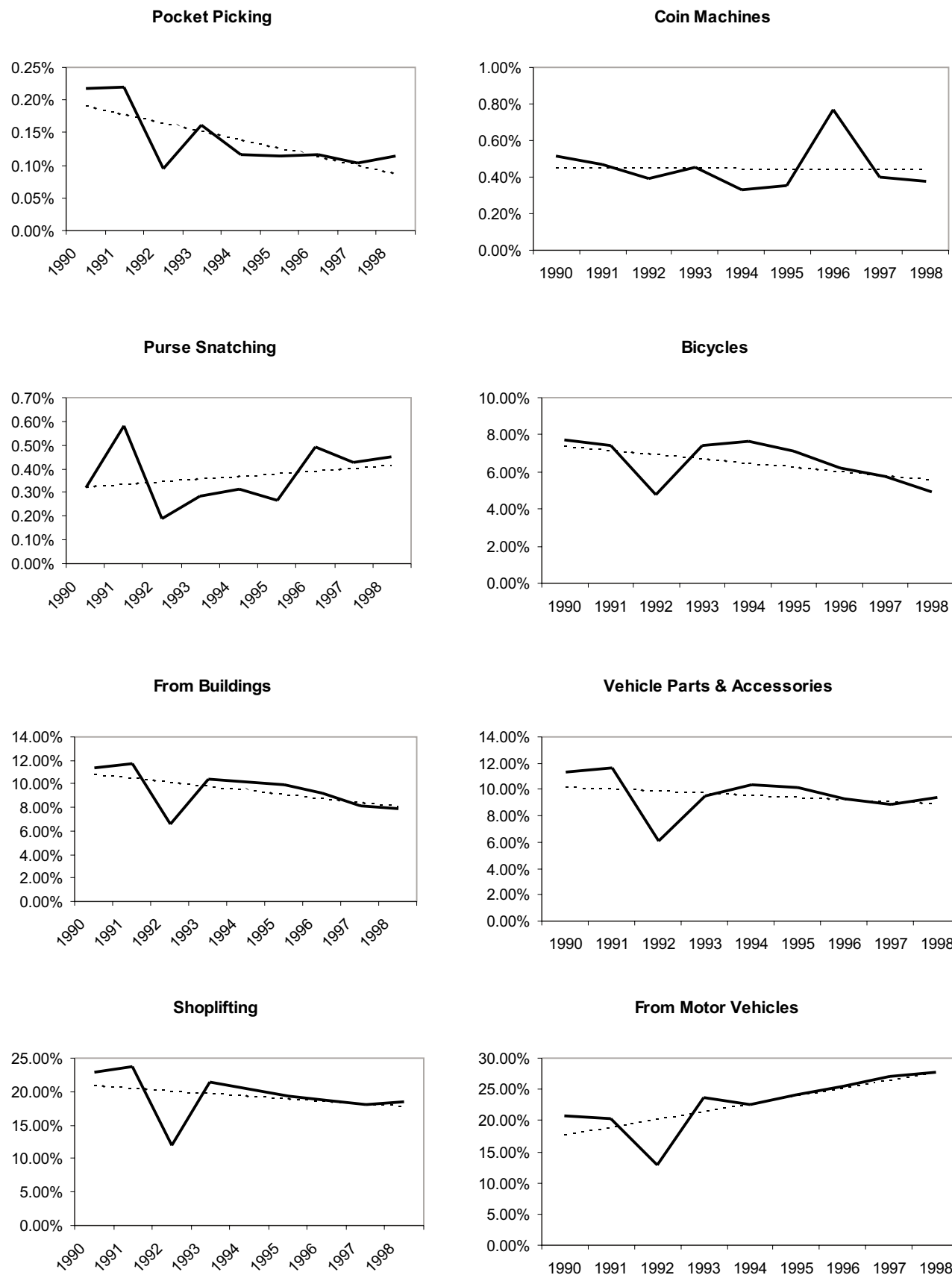
Figure 5: Utah Larceny Type Trend Analysis, 1990 to 1998Source: *Crime In the Utah, 1990 to 1998.*

Table 3: Utah Larceny/Theft Types, Rate Per 100,000 1990 to 1998

Larceny Type	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Pocket Picking	9.2	9.3	7.1	6.4	4.5	5.0	4.8	4.3	4.3
From Coin Machines	21.8	19.7	28.6	17.8	12.8	15.7	32.4	16.5	14.1
Purse Snatching	13.4	24.5	13.9	11.1	12.1	11.7	20.6	17.9	16.9
Bicycles	323.9	314.2	350.7	290.7	294.5	311.8	259.3	239.5	183.4
From Buildings	480.4	495.6	485.4	409.4	390.4	437.4	385.6	339.6	296.6
Vehicle Parts/Accessories	478.1	492.2	450.7	372.2	399.1	446.3	390.5	370.0	350.1
Shoplifting	967.6	999.7	878.6	843.6	780.2	846.7	782.3	751.5	689.8
From Motor Vehicles	874.0	855.6	945.1	932.4	871.5	1,056.2	1,067.6	1,129.4	1,039.3
All Other	1,043.4	1,004.2	4,212.8	1,042.9	1,081.9	1,265.6	1,252.2	1,296.9	1,142.8

Source: *Crime In the Utah, 1990 to 1998.*

accessories 9.4%, and theft from buildings 7.9% accounted for another large proportion of larcenies.

As shown in **Table 3**, the offense rate per 100,000 for all larceny offense types. These totals are statewide for 1990 to 1998.

Looking at the 1998 column, it is clear that the most common types of larceny offenses in Utah are theft from motor vehicles, shoplifting, theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories, and theft from buildings.

Comparing the rate per 100,000 from 1990 to 1998, the following larceny types decreased: pocket-picking -53.3%, theft from coin operated machine -35.2%, theft of bicycles -43.3%, theft from buildings -38.3%, theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories -26.8%, and shoplifting -28.7%.

Comparing the rate per 100,000 from 1990 to 1998, the following larceny types increased: purse-snatching 26.6%, theft from motor vehicles 18.9%, and all other larcenies 9.5%.

Narrowing the Focus On Larceny

Our analysis will now focus on the jurisdictions as listed in **Table 4**. These jurisdictions do not necessarily have the highest rate of larceny, but they do have the largest number of larceny offenses. To have a significant impact on larceny in Utah, we need to focus our efforts on the locations where it most frequently occurs.

As one would expect, most of these jurisdictions are located in the more densely populated areas in the state. The offenses have been averaged to soften the impact of large increases or decreases in larceny may have during one year.

Table 4: Top Larceny Jurisdictions, Average 1996 - 1998

Jurisdiction	Average Larceny/Theft (1996 to 1998)	Percent Change 1995 to 1998
Salt Lake County	16,470	1.5%
Salt Lake City	14,080	-16.0
West Valley City	5,280	6.0
Ogden	4,605	-3.5
Orem	3,503	6.0
Murray	3,055	-11.1
Sandy	2,978	4.9
Provo	2,696	-14.5
West Jordan	2,062	-11.5
South Salt Lake	1,861	-5.8
Layton*	1,378	-
Logan	1,185	-29.5
Brigham City	1,101	95.7
Midvale	1,034	69.5
St. George	996	-92.8
Roy	811	-4.5
American Fork	741	30.5
Cedar City	738	-13.2
University of Utah	716	-9.7
Weber County	710	-9.3

Source: *Crime In the Utah, 1990 to 1998.*

* Layton city only reported seven months of data during 1998.

Table 5: Larceny Offense Type By Jurisdictions With Most Larcenies *

	Pick-Pocket	Purse-Snatching	Shoplifting	Theft From Automobile	Theft of Auto Parts/Accessories	Theft of Bicycle	Theft From Building	Theft From Coin Machine	All Other Larcenies	Total
American Fork										
Offenses Known	-	-	224	168	12	93	26	5	270	798
Percent of Total	0.0%	0.0%	28.1%	21.1%	1.5%	11.7%	3.3%	0.6%	33.8%	
Brigham City										
Offenses Known	-	5	169	262	62	133	138	13	312	1,094
Percent of Total	0.0%	0.5%	15.4%	23.9%	5.7%	12.2%	12.6%	1.2%	28.5%	
Cedar City										
Offenses Known	1	6	162	234	13	95	11	1	307	830
Percent of Total	0.1%	0.7%	19.5%	28.2%	1.6%	11.4%	1.3%	0.1%	37.0%	
Layton										
Offenses Known	-	-	627	440	87	105	1	-	440	1,700
Percent of Total	0.0%	0.0%	36.9%	25.9%	5.1%	6.2%	0.1%	0.0%	25.9%	
Logan										
Offenses Known	1	16	352	210	48	88	57	5	384	1,161
Percent of Total	0.1%	1.4%	30.3%	18.1%	4.1%	7.6%	4.9%	0.4%	33.1%	
Midvale										
Offenses Known	1	19	86	189	129	76	43	4	264	811
Percent of Total	0.1%	2.3%	10.6%	23.3%	15.9%	9.4%	5.3%	0.5%	32.6%	
Murray										
Offenses Known	6	14	658	804	300	92	144	7	806	2,831
Percent of Total	0.2%	0.5%	23.2%	28.4%	10.6%	3.2%	5.1%	0.2%	28.5%	
Ogden										
Offenses Known	1	80	1,085	1,606	212	290	462	15	1,006	4,757
Percent of Total	0.0%	1.7%	22.8%	33.8%	4.5%	6.1%	9.7%	0.3%	21.1%	
Orem										
Offenses Known	1	4	873	1,033	100	399	160	4	1,289	3,863
Percent of Total	0.0%	0.1%	22.6%	26.7%	2.6%	10.3%	4.1%	0.1%	33.4%	
Provo										
Offenses Known	1	7	419	962	163	448	246	5	644	2,895
Percent of Total	0.0%	0.2%	14.5%	33.2%	5.6%	15.5%	8.5%	0.2%	22.2%	
Roy										
Offenses Known	2	-	-	228	60	73	70	8	440	881
Percent of Total	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	25.9%	6.8%	8.3%	7.9%	0.9%	49.9%	
St. George										
Offenses Known	2	45	328	256	77	134	13	7	489	1,351
Percent of Total	0.1%	3.3%	24.3%	18.9%	5.7%	9.9%	1.0%	0.5%	36.2%	
Salt Lake City										
Offenses Known	45	61	3,394	4,619	1,643	222	2,334	43	1,984	14,345
Percent of Total	0.3%	0.4%	23.7%	32.2%	11.5%	1.5%	16.3%	0.3%	13.8%	
Salt Lake County										
Offenses Known	4	11	2,286	4,846	3,153	805	710	52	5,496	17,363
Percent of Total	0.0%	0.1%	13.2%	27.9%	18.2%	4.6%	4.1%	0.3%	31.7%	
Sandy										
Offenses Known	1	3	733	819	465	147	174	17	735	3,094
Percent of Total	0.0%	0.1%	23.7%	26.5%	15.0%	4.8%	5.6%	0.5%	23.8%	
University of Utah										
Offenses Known	1	-	-	229	14	42	389	3	65	743
Percent of Total	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	30.8%	1.9%	5.7%	52.4%	0.4%	8.7%	
Weber County										
Offenses Known	-	5	10	172	13	1	26	1	491	719
Percent of Total	0.0%	0.7%	1.4%	23.9%	1.8%	0.1%	3.6%	0.1%	68.3%	
West Jordan										
Offenses Known	-	17	443	727	170	151	27	7	593	2,135
Percent of Total	0.0%	0.8%	20.7%	34.1%	8.0%	7.1%	1.3%	0.3%	27.8%	
West Valley City										
Offenses Known	2	34	1,472	1,243	732	316	338	11	1,364	5,512
Percent of Total	0.0%	0.6%	26.7%	22.6%	13.3%	5.7%	6.1%	0.2%	24.7%	

Source: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan. Uniform Crime Reporting Data.

* South Salt Lake is not included in the above table due to data inaccuracy from the data source.

The data in **Table 5** shows the frequency of specific types of larceny occurring in the various jurisdictions. The most common larceny offenses found in these jurisdictions are thefts from motor vehicles and shoplifting. This is consistent with the statewide data.

Similarly, the data in **Table 6** shows the value of property stolen in larceny offenses in these jurisdictions. The value of property stolen in larceny offenses is most commonly under \$50 or over \$200. Very seldom is the value between \$50 and \$200.

- ▼ Salt Lake County had the most larceny offenses from 1996 to 1998. In Salt Lake County, 27.9% of the larcenies were thefts from motor vehicles, 18.2% were thefts of motor vehicle parts/accessories, and 13.2% were shoplifting offenses. Of these larcenies, 81.0% were of property under \$50 in value.
- ▼ Salt Lake City had the second most larceny offenses. Of these, 32.2% were thefts from motor vehicles, 23.7% were shoplifting offenses, and 16.3% were thefts from buildings. In Salt Lake City, 61.8% of the larcenies were of property valued under \$50 and 28.5% were of property valued over \$200.
- ▼ Finally, West Valley City had the third most larceny offenses from 1996 to 1998. Of these, 26.7% were shoplifting offenses, 22.6% were thefts from motor vehicles, and 13.3% were thefts of motor vehicle parts/accessories. The value of the property was more evenly split with 43.4% of the property valued under \$50 and 34.3% of the property valued over \$200.

—Table 6: Larceny Offenses By Value—

	Over \$200	\$50 to \$200	Under \$50	Total
American Fork				
Offenses Known	260	182	356	798
Percent of Total	32.6%	22.8%	44.6%	
Brigham City				
Offenses Known	357	257	480	1,094
Percent of Total	32.6%	23.5%	43.9%	
Cedar City				
Offenses Known	54	33	743	830
Percent of Total	6.5%	4.0%	89.5%	
Layton				
Offenses Known	621	401	678	1,700
Percent of Total	36.5%	23.6%	39.9%	
Logan				
Offenses Known	329	281	551	1,161
Percent of Total	28.3%	24.2%	47.5%	
Midvale				
Offenses Known	309	158	344	811
Percent of Total	38.1%	19.5%	42.4%	
Murray				
Offenses Known	1,071	566	1,194	2,831
Percent of Total	37.8%	20.0%	42.2%	
Ogden				
Offenses Known	1,477	1,591	1,689	4,757
Percent of Total	31.0%	33.4%	35.5%	
Orem				
Offenses Known	1,194	667	2,002	3,863
Percent of Total	30.9%	17.3%	51.8%	
Provo				
Offenses Known	1,186	691	1,018	2,895
Percent of Total	41.0%	23.9%	35.2%	
Roy				
Offenses Known	331	189	361	881
Percent of Total	37.6%	21.5%	41.0%	
St. George				
Offenses Known	486	340	525	1,351
Percent of Total	36.0%	25.2%	38.9%	
Salt Lake City				
Offenses Known	4,092	1,391	8,862	14,345
Percent of Total	28.5%	9.7%	61.8%	
Salt Lake County				
Offenses Known	2,555	749	14,059	17,363
Percent of Total	14.7%	4.3%	81.0%	
Sandy				
Offenses Known	1,197	583	1,314	3,094
Percent of Total	38.7%	18.8%	42.5%	
University of Utah				
Offenses Known	342	193	208	743
Percent of Total	46.0%	26.0%	28.0%	
Weber County				
Offenses Known	360	140	219	719
Percent of Total	50.1%	19.5%	30.5%	
West Jordan				
Offenses Known	874	429	832	2,135
Percent of Total	40.9%	20.1%	39.0%	
West Valley City				
Offenses Known	1,889	1,235	2,388	5,512
Percent of Total	34.3%	22.4%	43.3%	

Source: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan. Uniform Crime Reporting Data.

* South Salt Lake is not included in the above table due to data inaccuracy from the data source.

Incident Based Larceny Analysis

Not all of the nineteen jurisdictions with the highest number of larcenies use the Incident Based Reporting (IBR) data. The remaining IBR analysis of larceny in Utah includes 1998 data reported from the following jurisdictions: Logan, Layton, Midvale, Murray, Provo, Roy, St. George, Sandy, South Salt Lake, University of Utah, Weber County, West Jordan, and West Valley City.

As will be shown, IBR data provides a more robust assessment of larceny in these jurisdictions and will provide a clear picture of the characteristics of larceny in Utah.

As shown in **Figure 5**, the category *all other larceny* is the most frequent larceny reporting category 33.7%, followed by *theft from a motor vehicle* 27.9%, *shoplifting* 20.6%, *theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories* 9.1%, and *theft from a building* 7.7%. These findings are consistent with the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data previously reported.

The proportional breakdown of reported IBR larceny offenses by jurisdiction is shown in **Table 7**. Clearly, when viewing IBR data, we

— **Table 7: Larceny By Agency, IBR Data 1998** —

	Larceny Offenses	Percent of Total Larceny Offenses
West Valley City	5,820	23.8%
Provo	3,161	12.9%
Sandy	2,981	12.2%
Murray	2,852	11.7%
West Jordan	1,949	8.0%
South Salt Lake	1,621	6.6%
Midvale	1,610	6.6%
Logan	1,025	4.2%
Layton*	915	3.7%
Roy	862	3.5%
Weber County	787	3.2%
University of Utah	764	3.1%
St. George	125	0.5%
TOTAL	24,472	

Source: Incident Based Reporting Data, 1998.

* Layton only reported seven months of data during 1998.

are missing the largest jurisdictions, namely Salt Lake County and Salt Lake City, and the numbers reflect this. However, of these jurisdictions are in the process of converting to IBR.

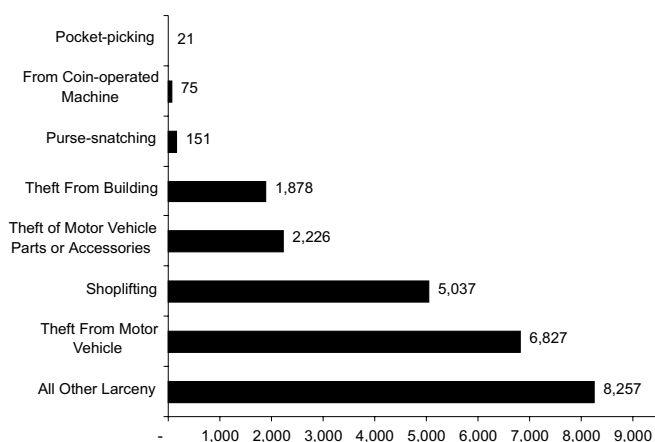
Although some agencies are not represented in reporting under IBR, the collected IBR data can still shed light on the characteristics of in larceny in the more urban areas of

...IBR data provides a more robust assessment of larceny in these jurisdictions and will provide a clearer picture of the characteristics of larceny in Utah.

Utah. The largest jurisdictions remaining in the analysis are West Valley City, Provo, Sandy, and Murray. Together, these jurisdictions account for 68.6% of the larcenies used in this analysis.

In the following analysis, we will look at larceny characteristics. Due to the lack of numbers or relevant information, no specific analysis was performed with regards to purse-snatching, pick-pocketing, theft from coin-operated machines, and “other” types of larceny.

— **Figure 6: 1998 IBR Larceny Offenses** —



Source: Incident Based Reporting Data, 1998.

* Layton only reported seven months of data during 1998.

Overall Larceny Characteristics

During 1998 in the IBR jurisdictions included, 16,625 victims of larceny were identified and 9,243 larceny arrestees were identified. **Table 8** shows characteristics of the victims and arrestees.

▽ Overall, individual victims of larceny accounted for 62.6%, while 35.2% were businesses.

▽ Of the 16,625 individual victims, 58.4% were males and 40.7% were females. The average age of victims was 32.8.

▽ During 1998, there were 9,243 larceny arrestees. Of these, males comprised 67.3% of the arrestees, with the remaining 32.7% being females. The average age of the arrestee was 22.4, while 45.8% were under 18, and 54.2% were 18 years of age or older.

Table 8: Larceny Victims and Arrestees

	Pick-Pocketing	Purse-Snatching	Shoplifting	Theft From Building	Theft From Coin Machine	Theft From Motor Vehicle	Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts Accessories	All Other Larceny	Total
Victims	21	155	166	1,487	13	7,082	1,892	5,809	16,625
Victim Type									
Individual	91.3%	98.1%	3.1%	71.3%	15.9%	93.9%	81.7%	64.8%	62.6%
Business	8.7%	0.6%	94.2%	22.5%	80.5%	5.3%	17.7%	32.8%	35.2%
Society/Public	0.0%	1.3%	2.6%	0.3%	1.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.7%	0.9%
Government	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	3.8%	1.2%	0.4%	0.3%	1.1%	0.8%
Financial Institution	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%
Religious Organization	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Unknown	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%
Victim Description (Where Victim Is Individual)									
Average Age	37.6	34.2	32.7	34.6	41.5	31.4	33.3	33.8	32.8
Male	71.4%	9.0%	64.5%	52.9%	69.2%	61.2%	61.8%	56.3%	58.4%
Female	28.6%	90.3%	32.5%	46.0%	30.8%	38.2%	37.4%	42.5%	40.7%
Unknown	0.0%	0.6%	3.0%	1.1%	0.0%	0.6%	0.8%	1.2%	0.9%
White	100.0%	83.2%	89.2%	81.0%	69.2%	87.0%	84.5%	84.8%	85.4%
Black	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.6%	0.4%	0.6%	0.6%
Am. Indian/Alask. Native	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%
Asian/Pacific Is.	0.0%	3.2%	1.8%	1.4%	0.0%	1.6%	2.2%	1.6%	1.7%
Unknown	0.0%	11.6%	9.0%	16.6%	30.8%	10.5%	12.7%	12.7%	12.1%
Not of Hispanic Origin	90.5%	84.5%	86.7%	74.6%	69.2%	82.9%	80.5%	80.6%	81.1%
Hispanic Origin	4.8%	3.2%	2.4%	4.4%	0.0%	5.2%	6.1%	5.1%	5.1%
Unknown	4.8%	12.3%	10.8%	21.0%	30.8%	11.9%	13.4%	14.3%	13.7%
Arrestees	2	5	5,187	338	6	705	49	2,951	9,243
Arrestee Description									
Average Age	15.0	22.4	23.3	20.0	20.2	17.8	24.6	22.3	22.4
Male	100.0%	100.0%	59.4%	80.8%	100.0%	91.2%	95.9%	73.1%	67.3%
Female	0.0%	0.0%	40.6%	19.2%	0.0%	8.8%	4.1%	26.9%	32.7%
White	100.0%	80.0%	89.7%	91.7%	100.0%	93.2%	85.7%	91.7%	90.7%
Black	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%	1.8%	0.0%	1.1%	6.1%	2.1%	2.2%
Am. Indian/Alask. Native	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	1.2%	0.0%	0.7%	2.0%	1.3%	2.2%
Asian/Pacific Is.	0.0%	0.0%	3.5%	0.6%	0.0%	3.8%	2.0%	2.4%	3.0%
Unknown	0.0%	20.0%	1.5%	4.7%	0.0%	1.1%	4.1%	2.4%	1.9%
Not of Hispanic Origin	100.0%	80.0%	80.7%	80.2%	100.0%	86.4%	85.7%	81.8%	81.5%
Hispanic Origin	0.0%	0.0%	16.0%	8.0%	0.0%	7.5%	8.2%	11.2%	13.5%
Unknown	0.0%	20.0%	3.3%	11.8%	0.0%	6.1%	6.1%	7.0%	5.0%

Source: Incident Based Reporting Data, 1998.

* Layton only reported seven months of data during 1998.

- ▼ When we look at the race/ethnicity of victims, we find 85.4% white and 1.7% Asian/Pacific Islander. Most of the victims, 81.1%, are not of Hispanic origin, while 5.1% are Hispanic. For 12.1%, the race/ethnicity of the victim was not known. , The population in the counties represented by this data are 88.7% white, and 11.3% being of a minority race**.
 - ▼ On the other hand, 90.2% of the arrestees were white, and 13.5% of arrestees are of Hispanic origin. Minority arrestees are disproportionately represented when compared to the general population.
 - ▼ Individuals were more likely to be victims of larceny when the offenses were pick-pocketing, purse-snatching, theft from a building, theft from a motor vehicle, and theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories. Businesses were more likely to be victims when the offenses were shoplifting and theft from a coin-operated machine.
 - ▼ There is not a lot of variability in racial composition among victims by the different larceny offense categories. However, in a large proportion of larceny offenses the race is unknown.
 - ▼ A larger proportion of the arrestees for shoplifting, theft from a building, and other larcenies are Hispanic when compared to other larceny categories as well as the general population. A larger proportion of ethnic minorities are arrestees of shoplifting and theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories. Other than these crime categories, minorities do not appear disproportionately represented as arrestees.
 - ▼ The average age of victims in all larceny categories are in the low thirties. On average, arrestees of theft from a motor vehicle appear to be younger than other arrestees of larceny offenses. Arrestees of theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories appear to be older than other arrestees of larceny offenses.
- Overall, males are more likely than females to be both victims and perpetrators of larceny offenses. One reporting downfall is the reported victim of a larceny offense may be the individual making contact with law enforcement rather than the individual who's property has been stolen.
- The data shows that the race of the victim and perpetrator of larceny is most commonly white. As is common in criminal justice settings, it appears that racial/ethnic minorities are disproportionately represented as larceny arrestees when compared to the general population. Due to the number of unknown racial entries, it is difficult to tell if this holds true for victims of larceny offenses.
- The average age of the victim of larceny offenses is higher than the arrestee. Victims of larceny tend to be in their early thirties, while the arrestees tend to be in their early twenties. Arrestees of theft from motor vehicles, the most prominent form of larceny in Utah, are generally younger than the arrestees of other forms of larceny.

**** Source:** Population Estimates Program, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, D.C. 20233.

▼ As **Table 9** indicates, nearly one-third of all larcenies occur at homes or other places of residence.

▼ Approximately 32% of larcenies occur in stores: in department/discount stores 10.0%; in grocery stores/supermarkets 8.2%; in convenience stores 5.6%; in specialty stores 4.3%; and in service/gas stations 4.1%.

▼ Just over 20% of larcenies occur in parking lots/garages 16.0% and on highways/roads/alleys 4.5%.

Once again, these findings are consistent with previous data suggesting the most frequent types of larceny include theft of a motor vehicle, shoplifting, and theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories. Larcenies involved with motor vehicles are likely to occur at a residence or a parking lot/garage. Obviously, shoplifting offenses are most likely to occur in retail store locations.

This information helps identify some of the trouble spots associated with

— **Table 9: Larceny Location** —

	Number	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
Residence/Home	7,275	29.7%	29.7%
Parking Lot/Garage	3,910	16.0%	45.7%
Department/Discount Store	2,458	10.0%	55.7%
Grocery/Supermarket	2,013	8.2%	64.0%
Convenience Store	1,376	5.6%	69.6%
School/College	1,098	4.5%	74.1%
Highway/Road/Alley	1,093	4.5%	78.6%
Specialty Store	1,044	4.3%	82.8%
Service/Gas Station	1,007	4.1%	86.9%
Other/Unknown	892	3.6%	90.6%
Commercial/Office Building	644	2.6%	93.2%
Restaurant	327	1.3%	94.5%
Drug Store/Doctor's Office/Hospital	284	1.2%	95.7%
Construction Site	267	1.1%	96.8%
Hotel/Motel/Etc.	164	0.7%	97.5%
Field/Woods	140	0.6%	98.0%
Church/Synagogue/Temple	117	0.5%	98.5%
Governement/Public Building	113	0.5%	99.0%
Rental Storage Facility	107	0.4%	99.4%
Bank/Savings and Loan	57	0.2%	99.6%
Bar/Night Club	52	0.2%	99.9%
Lake/Waterway	15	0.1%	99.9%
Air/Bus/Train Terminal	13	0.1%	100.0%
Liquor Store	5	0.0%	100.0%
Jail/Prison	1	0.0%	100.0%

Source: Incident Based Reporting Data, 1998.

* Layton only reported seven months of data during 1998.

larceny. This information should be used to think about solutions. For example, store owners could be assisted in keeping shoplifters at bay, and individuals could learn how to secure their property by taking it out of their vehicles.

— **Table 10: Larceny, Value of Stolen Property** —

	Average Property Value
Theft From Building	\$489.02
All Other Larceny	462.31
Theft From Motor Vehicle	281.19
From Coin-operated Machine	230.53
Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories	194.67
Shoplifting	94.94
Pocket-picking	67.14
Purse-snatching	57.32

Source: Incident Based Reporting Data, 1998.

* Layton only reported seven months of data during 1998.

When we look at **Table 10**, we see the average property values by the type of larceny offense. The top dollar values stolen in larceny offenses are thefts from buildings and thefts from motor vehicles. Purse-snatching, pocket-picking, and shoplifting consistently have the lowest average property value stolen. Shoplifters are often limited in their ability to conceal large amounts of property. Pocket-picking and purse-snatching are low due to the small amount of cash people generally have on their person.

Summary: Larceny

Victims of larceny are generally individuals following a close second is businesses. When the victim is an individual, both victims and arrestees of larceny are more likely to be white and male.

Larcenies occur most frequently at residences, stores, and parking lots. Higher valued property is stolen when the larceny is from a building or motor vehicle. Lower valued property is stolen when the larceny is shoplifting, purse-snatching, or pick-pocketing.

Theft From A Motor Vehicle

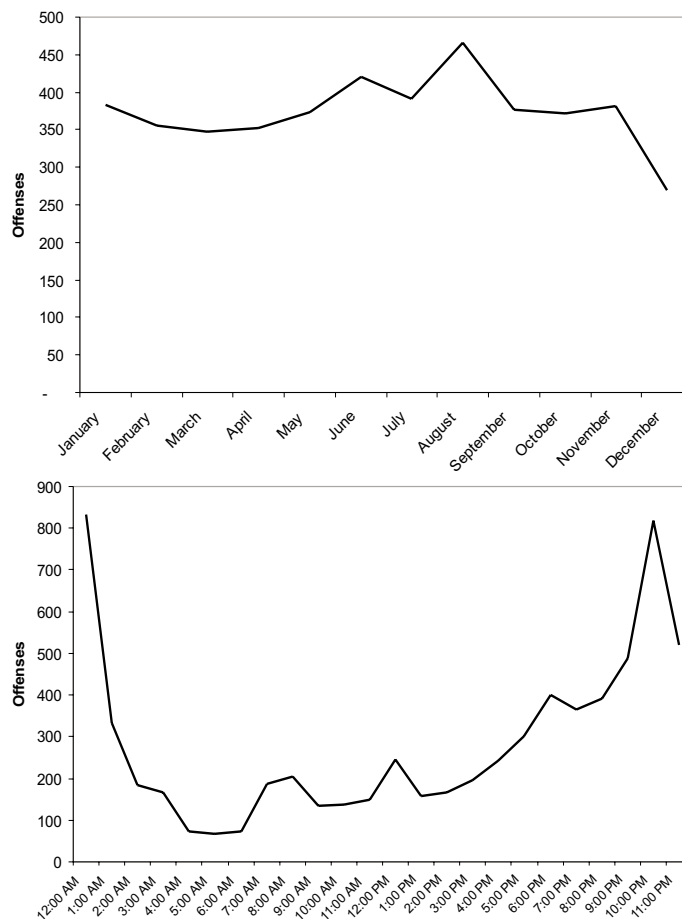
With the exception of the catch-all category “All Other Larceny”, the theft from a motor vehicle is the most common form of larceny occurring in the jurisdictions reporting the most larceny offenses in Utah.

▽ In 93.3% of the cases of theft from a motor vehicle, the victim was an individual. In 5.3% of the cases, the victim was a business. These are likely company property being stored in personal or company vehicles.

▽ When the victim is an individual, 61.2% are male and 38.2% are female.

▽ Looking at arrestees, 91.2% were male and 8.8% were female. The proportion of males are much higher than larceny overall. Of the arrestees, 58.0% were under 18 years of age and 42.0% were older.

Figure 7: 1998 Theft From Motor Vehicle, Time Analysis



Source: Incident Based Reporting Data, 1998.

* Layton only reported seven months of data during 1998.

▽ Theft from a motor vehicle arrestees were 93.2% white, with the remaining arrestees of a minority race. Only 7.5% were of Hispanic origin.

▽ For the jurisdictions analyzed, there were 4,491 thefts from motor vehicles during 1998. The first chart in **Figure 7** examines the distribution of these offenses. It should be noted, a clear spike occurs during the summer months.

▽ The second chart in **Figure 7** shows the time these offenses occurred. It is interesting to note the spikes in the early morning and at noon. Generally, a growing number of these offenses occur between 9:00 p.m. and midnight.

▽ Thefts from motor vehicles generally occur at a residence or parking lot. Looking at **Figure 11**, 39.5% occur at a residence/home and another 39.3% occur in parking lots/garages. In addition, highways/roads/alleys and colleges/schools, in addition to residences and parking lots, account for 90.8% of the locations.

▽ In **Figure 12**, the list of property stolen from motor vehicles is not surprising. It includes radios/TVs/VCRs 12.6%, vehicle parts/accessories 12.4%, recordings-audio/

— **Table 11: Theft From Motor Vehicle, Location** —

	Number	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
Residence/Home	2,695	39.5%	39.5%
Parking Lot/Garage	2,684	39.3%	78.8%
Highway/Road/Alley	647	9.5%	88.3%
School/College	173	2.5%	90.8%
Other/Unknown	159	2.3%	93.1%
Commercial/Office Building	102	1.5%	94.6%
Church/Synagogue/Temple	59	0.9%	95.5%
Specialty Store	51	0.7%	96.2%
Field/Woods	44	0.6%	96.9%
Service/Gas Station	32	0.5%	97.3%
Construction Site	28	0.4%	97.8%
Restaurant	25	0.4%	98.1%
Department/Discount Store	22	0.3%	98.4%
Hotel/Motel/Etc.	20	0.3%	98.7%
Convenience Store	17	0.2%	99.0%
Grocery/Supermarket	14	0.2%	99.2%
Government/Public Building	12	0.2%	99.4%
Rental Storage Facility	12	0.2%	99.5%
Drug Store/Doctor's Office/Hospital	11	0.2%	99.7%
Bar/Night Club	8	0.1%	99.8%
Lake/Waterway	8	0.1%	99.9%
Air/Bus/Train Terminal	2	0.0%	100.0%
Bank/Savings and Loan	2	0.0%	100.0%

Source: Incident Based Reporting Data, 1998.

* Layton only reported seven months of data during 1998.

— **Table 12: Theft From Motor Vehicle, Property Description** —

	Number	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
Other	1,951	22.4%	22.4%
Radios/TVs/VCRs	1,101	12.6%	35.0%
Vehicle Parts/Accessories	1,080	12.4%	47.4%
Recordings-Audio/Visual	713	8.2%	55.6%
Purses/Handbags/Wallets	708	8.1%	63.7%
Money	570	6.5%	70.2%
Nonnegotiable Instruments	502	5.8%	76.0%
Tools	474	5.4%	81.4%
Credit/Debit Cards	364	4.2%	85.6%
Clothes/Furs	305	3.5%	89.1%
Office-type Equipment	190	2.2%	91.3%
Negotiable Instruments	143	1.6%	92.9%
Household Goods	124	1.4%	94.3%
Consumable Goods	101	1.2%	95.5%
Jewelry/Precious Metals	96	1.1%	96.6%
Merchandise	80	0.9%	97.5%
Computer Hardware/Software	75	0.9%	98.4%
Firearms	68	0.8%	99.2%
Drugs/Narcotics	26	0.3%	99.4%
Heavy Construction/Industrial Equipment	19	0.2%	99.7%
Bicycles	12	0.1%	99.8%
Alcohol	7	0.1%	99.9%
Aircraft	5	0.1%	99.9%
Drug/Narcotic Equipment	3	0.0%	100.0%
Pending Inventory	2	0.0%	100.0%

Source: Incident Based Reporting Data, 1998.

* Layton only reported seven months of data during 1998.

visual 8.2%, purses/handbags/wallets 8.1%, and money 6.5%.

Examining the data listed in these tables, clear preventative steps can be taken to avoid becoming a victim of theft from a motor vehicle. People should be aware that the risk of contents being stolen from their vehicle occurs both at home and in parking lots.

Steps should be taken to avoid this type of property loss, including: ensuring the vehicle is locked, storing valuable property out of view, and, when possible, park the car inside a secured garage.

▽ Residence/home and parking lot/garage accounted for 78.8% of the locations for theft from a motor vehicle. **Table 13** looks at the stolen property descriptions for these two locations. It appears that when the offense location is a residence, the stolen property type is more likely to be radios/TVs/VCRs and recordings-audio/visual. If the offense location is a parking lot/garage, the stolen property type is more likely to be vehicle parts/accessories and purses/handbags/wallets.

Summary: Theft From a Motor Vehicle

Theft from a motor vehicle is the most common type of larceny in Utah. In this section, we have found that individuals were the most common victim of this type of offense. These individuals are typically white males. Although arrests are not common for this offense, we found that the arrestees are generally white males.

A clear majority of thefts from motor vehicles occur while the vehicle is either at home or when parked at a parking lot or garage. Overall, the most frequent type of property stolen in this offense are radios/TVs/VCRs, vehicle parts/accessories, audio/visual recordings, purses/handbags/wallets, and money.

Although thefts from motor vehicles occur throughout the year, they appear to occur more frequently during the summer months, particularly July and August. There is also a sharp decrease in these offenses during the month of December.

Thefts from motor vehicles increase during the morning hours between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., and again during the noon hours, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.. There is a dramatic

Table 13: Theft From Motor Vehicle, Property Description By Residence and Parking Lot

	Number	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
Residence/Home			
Radios/TVs/VCRs	547	14.3%	14.3%
Vehicle Parts/Accessories	466	12.2%	26.5%
Recordings-Audio/Visual	385	10.1%	36.6%
Purses/Handbags/Wallets	267	7.0%	43.6%
Money	235	6.2%	49.7%
Parking Lot/Garage			
Vehicle Parts/Accessories	376	12.3%	12.3%
Radios/TVs/VCRs	339	11.1%	23.3%
Purses/Handbags/Wallets	275	9.0%	32.3%
Recordings-Audio/Visual	210	6.8%	39.1%
Money	199	6.5%	45.6%

Source: Incident Based Reporting Data, 1998.

* Layton only reported seven months of data during 1998.

increase in these offenses between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., and again during the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m., where the number peaks.

Shoplifting

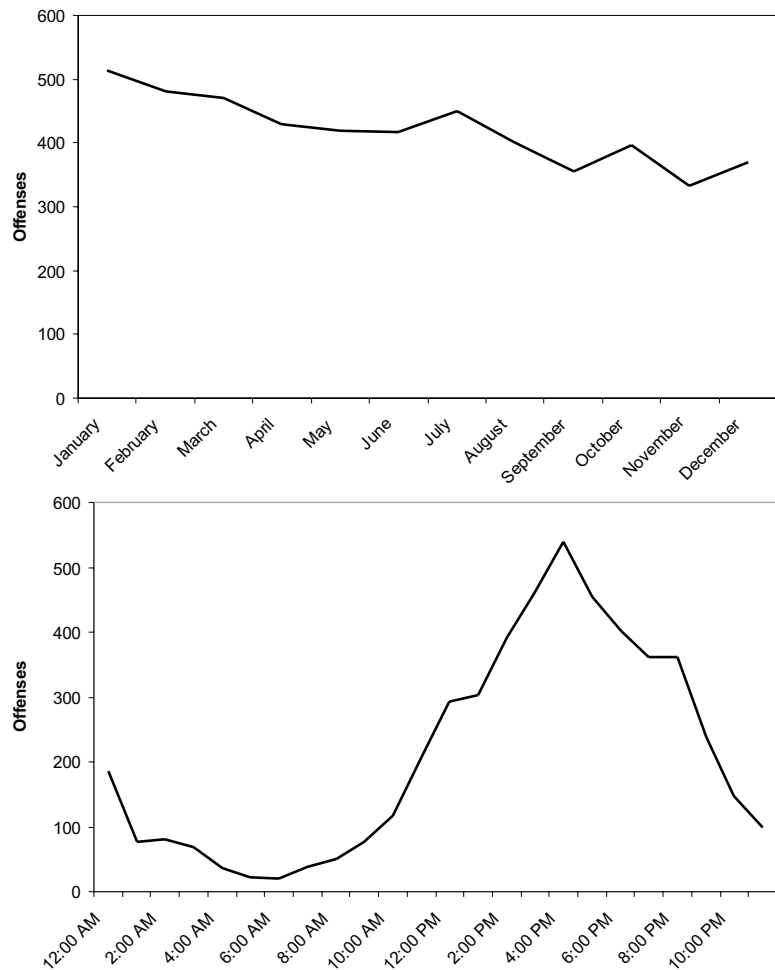
Shoplifting is the second most common type of larceny in Utah. Generally the victim of shoplifting is a business. Only in 3.1% of the cases is the victim an individual.

Shoplifting arrestees are an average of 32.7 years of age. Looking at gender of arrestees, 59.4% are male, while 40.6% are female. Of all larceny offenses, women are most likely to be engaged in the crime of shoplifting. Looking at the previous section, only about 10% of the arrestees of theft from a motor vehicle were female. The percentage of the shoplifting arrestees under the age of 18 is 45.9% and 54.1% were over 18.

Shoplifting also appears to have a heavy minority involvement when compared to Utah's general population. Looking at arrestees, 16% were of Hispanic origin. Of the remaining minority arrestees 3.5% were Asian/Pacific Islander, 3.0% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.3% were black. Of the counties included in this analysis, 11.3% of the residents were of a minority race. Minority arrestees for shoplifting accounted for 24.8% of the total shoplifting arrestees.

Figure 8 shows the temporal nature of shoplifting in Utah. This exhibit examines the month the shoplifting offenses occur, as well as the time of day the shoplifting offenses occur.

Figure 8: 1998 Shoplifting, Time Analysis



Source: Incident Based Reporting Data, 1998.

* Layton only reported seven months of data during 1998.

▼ The frequency of shoplifting offenses appears to decrease from the beginning of the year in January to the end of the year in December. As noted, there are minor peaks of shoplifting during the months of July, October, and December.

▼ Shoplifting offenses dramatically increase between the hours of 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. There is a sharp decrease in shoplifting offenses between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. In addition, there is a minor peak of shoplifting that occurs around the midnight hour.

▽ As expected, 95.4% of all shoplifting offenses occur in some type of a store location. Of these, department/discount stores account for 40.6% and grocery/supermarket stores account for 32.5%.

▽ It is also worth noting that approximately 15.1% of the shoplifting offenses occur in convenience stores/gas stations. Although these are separate categories reported in NIBRS, in Utah these stores are generally one in the same.

Table 14: Shoplifting Location

	Number	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
Department/Discount Store	2,043	40.6%	40.6%
Grocery/Supermarket	1,636	32.5%	73.0%
Convenience Store	618	12.3%	85.3%
Specialty Store	368	7.3%	92.6%
Service/Gas Station	139	2.8%	95.4%
Other/Unknown	59	1.2%	96.5%
Residence/Home	41	0.8%	97.4%
Commercial/Office Building	39	0.8%	98.1%
Drug Store/Doctor's Office/Hospital	19	0.4%	98.5%
Parking Lot/Garage	17	0.3%	98.8%
Highway/Road/Alley	13	0.3%	99.1%
Restaurant	10	0.2%	99.3%
Construction Site	9	0.2%	99.5%
School/College	9	0.2%	99.7%
Government/Public Building	5	0.1%	99.8%
Air/Bus/Train Terminal	2	0.0%	99.8%
Church/Synagogue/Temple	2	0.0%	99.8%
Hotel/Motel/Etc.	2	0.0%	99.9%
Liquor Store	2	0.0%	99.9%
Rental Storage Facility	2	0.0%	100.0%
Field/Woods	1	0.0%	100.0%
Lake/Waterway	1	0.0%	100.0%

Source: Incident Based Reporting Data, 1998.

* Layton only reported seven months of data during 1998.

Table 15: Shoplifting Property Description

	Number	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
Consumable Goods	1,993	20.7%	20.7%
Clothes/Furs	1,872	19.4%	40.1%
Merchandise	1,825	18.9%	59.1%
Other	1,718	17.8%	76.9%
Recordings-Audio/Visual	550	5.7%	82.6%
Alcohol	534	5.5%	88.1%
Jewelry/Precious Metals	288	3.0%	91.1%
Radios/TVs/VCRs	181	1.9%	93.0%
Household Goods	162	1.7%	94.7%
Tools	146	1.5%	96.2%
Computer Hardware/Software	90	0.9%	97.1%
Purses/Handbags/Wallets	72	0.7%	97.9%
Office-type Equipment	58	0.6%	98.5%
Vehicle Parts/Accessories	44	0.5%	99.0%
Drug/Narcotic Equipment	26	0.3%	99.2%
Money	20	0.2%	99.4%
Drugs/Narcotics	18	0.2%	99.6%
Firearms	15	0.2%	99.8%
Bicycles	14	0.1%	99.9%
Negotiable Instruments	4	0.0%	100.0%
Nonnegotiable Instruments	2	0.0%	100.0%
Credit/Debit Cards	1	0.0%	100.0%
Pending Inventory	1	0.0%	100.0%

Source: Incident Based Reporting Data, 1998.

* Layton only reported seven months of data during 1998.

▽ The findings in *Table 15* are consistent with those in *Table 14*. In 20.7% of the cases, the property shoplifted was consumable goods. In 19.4% of the cases, the property shoplifted was clothes/furs. The former likely occurred in supermarkets, while the latter likely occurred in a department store.

▽ The categories “merchandise” and “other” accounted for 36.7% of the property types for shoplifting offenses. Unfortunately they do not provide a detailed description of property stolen.

Table 16 shows the type of property stolen in shoplifting offenses by location.

▼ When the shoplifting offense occurred at a department/discount store, the property most commonly stolen was clothing. Also stolen was audio/visual recordings, consumable goods, and other merchandise.

▼ Shoplifting in grocery stores/supermarkets most commonly involved the theft of consumable goods, but also included alcohol, clothing, and other merchandise.

▼ When shoplifting occurred in a convenience store/gas station, the most common property stolen included consumable goods, alcohol, vehicle parts/accessories, and other merchandise.

Summary: Shoplifting

Shoplifting is the second most common form of larceny in the jurisdictions analyzed. Females are more involved in shoplifting than any other form of larceny. Hispanics are also more involved in shoplifting than their representation in the general population would suggest. A majority of shoplifting offenders are adult.

Shoplifting increases at 8:00 a.m. and peaks at 4:00 p.m. The majority of shoplifting occurs between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Almost all of the shoplifting offenses occurred in stores. Department/discount stores accounted for 40.6% of the shoplift-

Table 16: Shoplifting, Property Description By Offense Location

	Number	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
Department/Discount Store			
Clothes/Furs	1,636	31.6%	31.6%
Other	827	16.0%	47.6%
Merchandise	751	14.5%	62.1%
Recordings-Audio/Visual	404	7.8%	69.9%
Consumable Goods	352	6.8%	76.7%
Grocery Store/Supermarket			
Consumable Goods	1,352	34.4%	34.4%
Merchandise	888	22.6%	57.0%
Other	865	22.0%	79.0%
Alcohol	198	5.0%	84.0%
Clothes/Furs	86	2.2%	86.2%
Convenience Store/Gas Station			
Consumable Goods	1,243	46.3%	46.3%
Other	444	16.5%	62.9%
Alcohol	374	13.9%	76.8%
Merchandise	202	7.5%	84.3%
Vehicle Parts/Accessories	179	6.7%	91.0%

Source: Incident Based Reporting Data, 1998.

* Layton only reported seven months of data during 1998.

ing, and grocery/supermarkets accounted for 32.5%. Gas stations/convenience stores accounted for 15.1% of the offenses. In Utah, these are generally one in the same.

Looking at the property shoplifted, 20.7% was consumable goods such as food items, gasoline, etc. In 19.4% of the cases, the property stolen was clothing.

As expected, when the shoplifting occurred in department/discount stores, the property stolen was clothing. When the shoplifting occurred in grocery stores/supermarkets, the property stolen was consumable goods.

Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts/Accessories

The victims of theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories are individuals, 81.7%, and businesses account for 17.7%. When the victim is an individual, the average age is 33.3 years. Similar to theft from a motor vehicle, victims of theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories are predominantly males, 61.8%, versus females 37.4%. Due to a lack of information, it is difficult to determine whether the race/ethnicity of the victims reflect the race/ethnicity of individuals in the community.

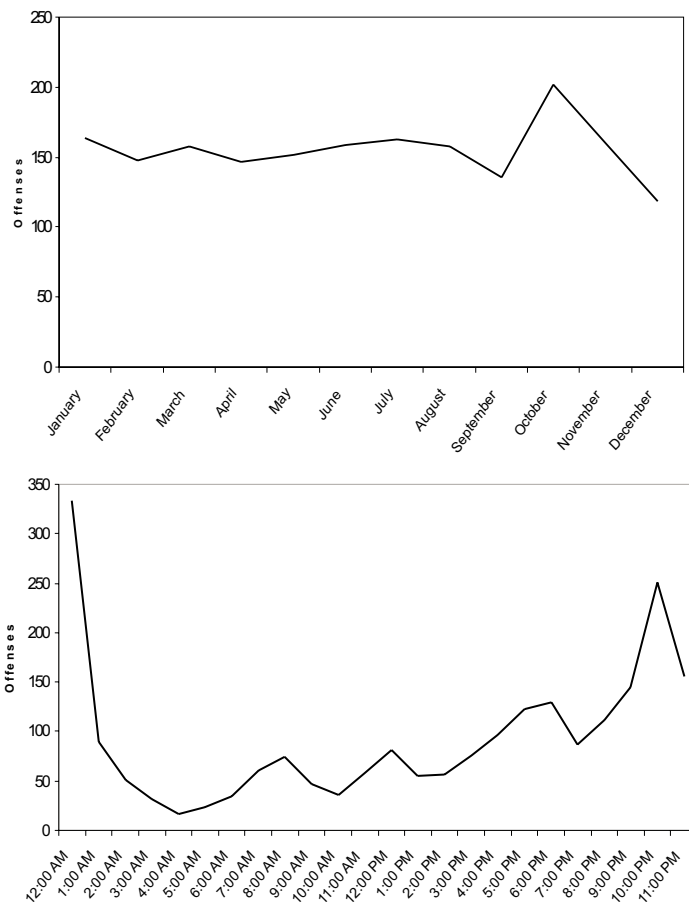
The arrestees of theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories are an average age of 24.6, with 28.6% being under the age of 18, and 71.4% being older than 18. Arrestees are nearly always male, 95.9%, versus 4.1% female.

Again, minorities appear to be over-represented as arrestees in 18.3% of theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories offenses, with 8.2% being Hispanic, 6.1% being black, 2.0% being American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.0% being Asian/Pacific Islander.

Figure 9 shows the month and time that theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories occurs. If the theft of parts/accessories occurs during the night and is not discovered until morning, it is difficult to ascertain precisely when the theft occurred. That may be the reason we see a spike of theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories at midnight.

▽ The frequency of theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories is moderately higher during the summer months. It also had a large peak during October.

Figure 9: 1998 Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts/Accessories, Time Analysis



Source: Incident Based Reporting Data, 1998.

* Layton only reported seven months of data during 1998.

▽ Looking at the time of day theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories occur, there are patterns of increased activity at 8:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and again at 10:00 p.m. These peaks correlate with the beginning of the work day, lunch time, and the end of the work day.

▼ Most of the thefts of motor vehicle parts/accessories, 40.8%, occur at the home. In addition, 27.8% of these thefts occur in a parking lot or garage.

▼ It is interesting to note that 13.9% occur in a service station/convenience store, and 8.9% occur on a highway/road/alley.

— **Table 17: Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts/Accessories: Location** —

	Number	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
Residence/Home	909	40.8%	40.8%
Parking Lot/Garage	619	27.8%	68.6%
Service/Gas Station	198	8.9%	77.5%
Highway/Road/Alley	171	7.7%	85.2%
Convenience Store	112	5.0%	90.3%
Other/Unknown	66	3.0%	93.2%
Commercial/Office Building	42	1.9%	95.1%
Specialty Store	33	1.5%	96.6%
School/College	20	0.9%	97.5%
Grocery/Supermarket	11	0.5%	98.0%
Field/Woods	7	0.3%	98.3%
Hotel/Motel/Etc.	7	0.3%	98.6%
Construction Site	6	0.3%	98.9%
Restaurant	6	0.3%	99.1%
Department/Discount Store	5	0.2%	99.4%
Rental Storage Facility	5	0.2%	99.6%
Church/Synagogue/Temple	3	0.1%	99.7%
Drug Store/Doctor's Office/Hospital	3	0.1%	99.9%
Air/Bus/Train Terminal	1	0.0%	99.9%
Bar/Night Club	1	0.0%	100.0%
Government/Public Building	1	0.0%	100.0%

Source: Incident Based Reporting Data, 1998.

* Layton only reported seven months of data during 1998.

— **Table 18: Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts/Accessories** —

Property Description

	Number	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
Vehicle Parts/Accessories	1,524	72.4%	72.4%
Other	167	7.9%	80.3%
Consumable Goods	138	6.6%	86.9%
Recordings-Audio/Visual	90	4.3%	91.2%
Radios/TVs/VCRs	81	3.8%	95.0%
Clothes/Furs	23	1.1%	96.1%
Tools	22	1.0%	97.1%
Nonnegotiable Instruments	14	0.7%	97.8%
Money	11	0.5%	98.3%
Merchandise	7	0.3%	98.7%
Purses/Handbags/Wallets	7	0.3%	99.0%
Credit/Debit Cards	6	0.3%	99.3%
Jewelry/Precious Metals	4	0.2%	99.5%
Firearms	3	0.1%	99.6%
Negotiable Instruments	3	0.1%	99.8%
Office-type Equipment	3	0.1%	99.9%
Heavy Construction/Industrial Equipment	1	0.0%	100.0%
Household Goods	1	0.0%	100.0%

Source: Incident Based Reporting Data, 1998.

* Layton only reported seven months of data during 1998.

▼ **Table 18** indicates that 72.4% of the property stolen in a theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories are actually motor vehicle parts/accessories.

▼ Other property stolen in this offense includes consumable goods 6.6%, audio-visual recordings 4.3%, and radios/TVs/VCRs 3.8%.

Summary: Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts/Accessories

There were few surprising findings in the analysis of theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories data. These offenses occur most frequently in the summer months, peaking in the morning, noon, and late afternoon. Most often, the victim of this offense is an individual as compared to a business.

The arrestees of theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories are an average age of 24.6. A larger proportion of arrestees are of a minority race when compared to the proportion of minorities in the communities reflected by this data.

Theft of motor vehicle parts and accessories occurs most frequently at the home or in a parking lot/garage. As the offense describes, motor vehicle parts/accessories are the items most frequently stolen, but other items are stolen such as radios, audio tapes, and audio CDs.

Theft From a Building

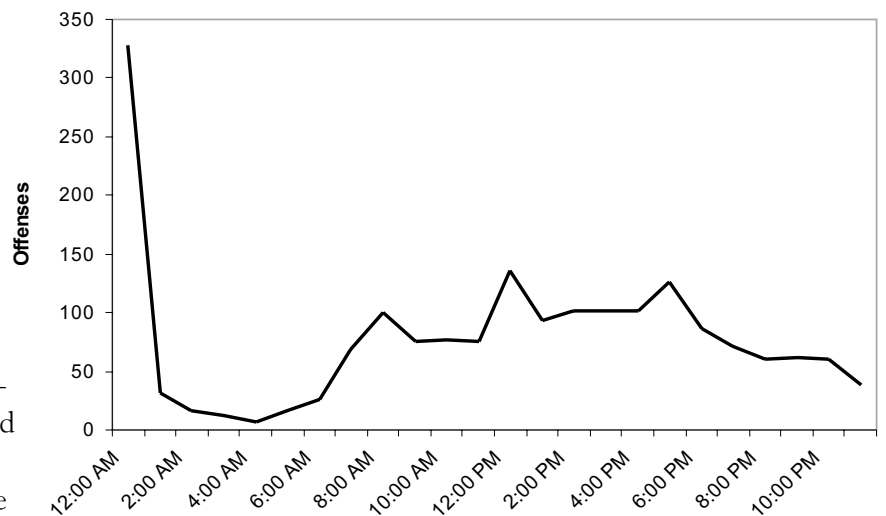
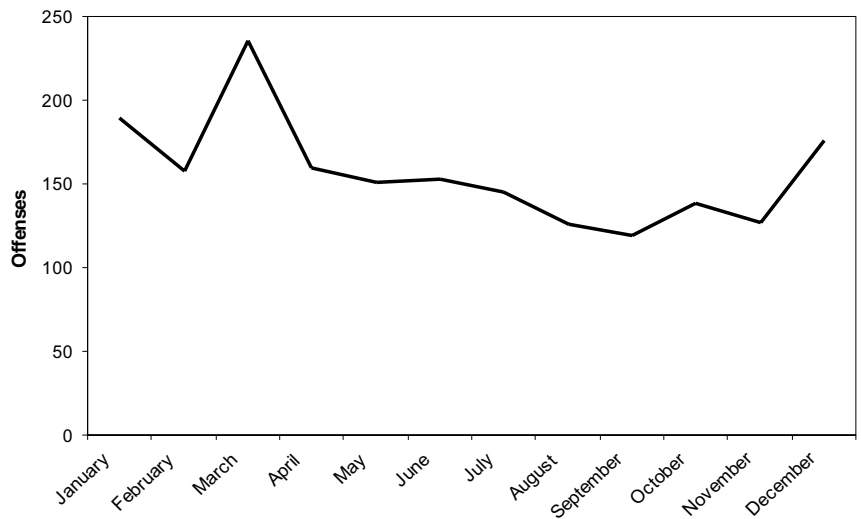
Victims of theft from a building are most likely to be individuals. Of the victims identified, 71.3% were individuals, 22.5% were businesses, and 3.8% were government. When the victim was an individual, 52.9% were male and 46.0% were female. Again, due to the amount of “unknown” data, it is difficult to determine whether the race/ethnicity mirrors the proportion of racial minorities in the community.

Arrestees of theft from a building are predominantly white males, 80.8% were male and 19.2% were female.

Looking at race/ethnicity of the arrestees, 11.6% were a racial/ethnic minority, with 8.0% being Hispanic, 1.6% being black, 1.2% being American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 0.6% being Asian/Pacific Islander. These proportions are quite similar to the minority makeup of the general population.

Figure 10 shows the times that theft from a building occurs. Again, if theft from a building occurs during the night and is not discovered until morning, it is difficult to ascertain precisely when the theft occurred. Again, that may be the reason we see the large spike at midnight.

Figure 10: 1998 Theft From a Building, Time Analysis



Source: Incident Based Reporting Data, 1998.

* Layton only reported seven months of data during 1998.

- ▼ The frequency of theft from a building peaks during the winter and early spring months. It gradually decreases between April and September, and peaks during March.
- ▼ Looking at the time of day theft from a building occurs, we see an unusual pattern. A large volume of these offenses occur between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm. There are the usual spikes during the pre-work/school hours, at lunch time, and after-work/school hours. However, the frequency does not grow during the evening hours as in other offenses.

Most commonly, theft from a building occurs at homes 29.4%. In addition, 20.4% occur at school or college, 9.1% occur at drug stores/doctors office/hospitals, 6.9% occur at commercial/office buildings, and 6.7% occur at specialty stores. These locations account for approximately three-quarters of theft from a building.

Looking at **Table 20**, much of the property stolen in thefts from buildings are money-related including 14.8% as cash, 10.1% as purses and wallets, 7.4% as credit cards, and 6.8% as nonnegotiable instruments.

Table 19: Theft From a Building: Location

	Number	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
Residence/Home	553	29.4%	29.4%
School/College	384	20.4%	49.9%
Drug Store/Doctor's Office/Hospital	171	9.1%	59.0%
Commercial/Office Building	129	6.9%	65.9%
Specialty Store	126	6.7%	72.6%
Other/Unknown	78	4.2%	76.7%
Department/Discount Store	61	3.2%	80.0%
Rental Storage Facility	54	2.9%	82.9%
Restaurant	53	2.8%	85.7%
Hotel/Motel/Etc.	49	2.6%	88.3%
Grocery/Supermarket	40	2.1%	90.4%
Convenience Store	38	2.0%	92.4%
Government/Public Building	36	1.9%	94.4%
Construction Site	30	1.6%	96.0%
Parking Lot/Garage	29	1.5%	97.5%
Church/Synagogue/Temple	19	1.0%	98.5%
Bar/Night Club	13	0.7%	99.2%
Service/Gas Station	7	0.4%	99.6%
Field/Woods	3	0.2%	99.7%
Highway/Road/Alley	2	0.1%	99.8%
Bank/Savings and Loan	1	0.1%	99.9%
Jail/Prison	1	0.1%	99.9%
Liquor Store	1	0.1%	100.0%

Source: Incident Based Reporting Data, 1998.

* Layton only reported seven months of data during 1998.

Unfortunately, the “Other” category comprises 20.0% of the property lost descriptions. This minimizes what we can analyze regarding the property lost.

Other common property lost due to theft from a building includes radios/TVs at 7.5%, computer hardware/software at 4.4%, and clothing at 3.9%.

There are some differences in the type property lost when we examine homes and school individually. At home, jewelry, tools, bicycles, and credit card theft occur more frequently than at school. However, at school computer hardware/software and radio/TV theft occur more frequently than at home.

Table 20: Theft From a Building: Property Description

	Number	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
Other	537	20.0%	20.0%
Money	397	14.8%	34.7%
Purses/Handbags/Wallets	272	10.1%	44.8%
Radios/TVs/VCRs	201	7.5%	52.3%
Credit/Debit Cards	200	7.4%	59.8%
Nonnegotiable Instruments	183	6.8%	66.6%
Computer Hardware/Software	117	4.4%	70.9%
Clothes/Furs	104	3.9%	74.8%
Household Goods	89	3.3%	78.1%
Tools	89	3.3%	81.4%
Jewelry/Precious Metals	83	3.1%	84.5%
Office-type Equipment	55	2.0%	86.5%
Consumable Goods	54	2.0%	88.5%
Recordings-Audio/Visual	54	2.0%	90.6%
Negotiable Instruments	49	1.8%	92.4%
Bicycles	46	1.7%	94.1%
Merchandise	44	1.6%	95.7%
Firearms	32	1.2%	96.9%
Drugs/Narcotics	26	1.0%	97.9%
Vehicle Parts/Accessories	21	0.8%	98.7%
Aircraft	14	0.5%	99.2%
Alcohol	12	0.4%	99.6%
Drug/Narcotic Equipment	7	0.3%	99.9%
Heavy Construction/Industrial Equipment	3	0.1%	100.0%

Source: Incident Based Reporting Data, 1998.

* Layton only reported seven months of data during 1998.

Summary: Theft From a Building

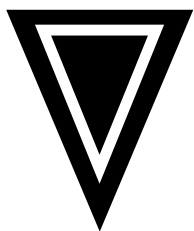
Theft from a building is the fourth most common type of larceny in the jurisdictions analyzed. Most of the victims of this offense are individuals who are evenly split between males and females. Due to lack of data, it is impossible to determine whether or not the victims are predominantly minority or non-minority.

The arrestees of theft from buildings are predominantly white males. Only 20% of the arrestees were female. Of the total, 11.6% were of a minority race/ethnicity.

The bulk of thefts from buildings occur in the late winter to early spring months, with a large peak of offenses occurring during the month of March. An overwhelming majority of these offenses occur between the hours of 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. Unlike the other types of larceny offenses analyzed, thefts from building do not increase during the late evening hours. However, there are similar peaks during the pre-work/preschool hours, the lunch hour, and the post-work/post-school hours.

Approximately half of the thefts from buildings occur either at home or at school. The most common property stolen is money-related, as in cash, purses, wallets, credit cards, etc. Computer hardware/software and radios/TVs are also commonly stolen.

There does appear to be differences in the types of property stolen when the location is a home as opposed to school. When the offense location is a home, jewelry, tools, bicycles, and credit cards are stolen more frequently than at schools. However, when the location is a school, computer hardware/software and radios/TVs are stolen more frequently than at homes.



CHAPTER 3

Motor Vehicle Theft In Utah

Motor vehicle theft is exactly what it says, theft of a motor vehicle. Motor vehicles are defined as a self-propelled vehicle that runs on the surface of land and not on rails and can be described as an automobile, a bus, a recreation vehicle, a truck, or any other motor vehicle, such as motorcycles or snowmobiles.

As shown in the “Introduction” section of this report, Utah has a comparatively low motor vehicle theft rate. During 1998, Utah’s motor vehicle theft rate was 331.6 per 100,000 population, while the national rate was 459.0 per 100,000. That makes Utah’s motor vehicle theft rate 27.8% lower than the national rate.

Looking at the western region of the United States, Utah also has a comparatively low motor vehicle theft rate.

Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming have lower rates compared to Utah, while Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona have higher rates.

Looking at the map in **Figure 3**, Utah is about average nationally when it comes to motor vehicle theft. However, between 1988 and 1998, Utah’s motor vehicle theft rate nearly doubled.

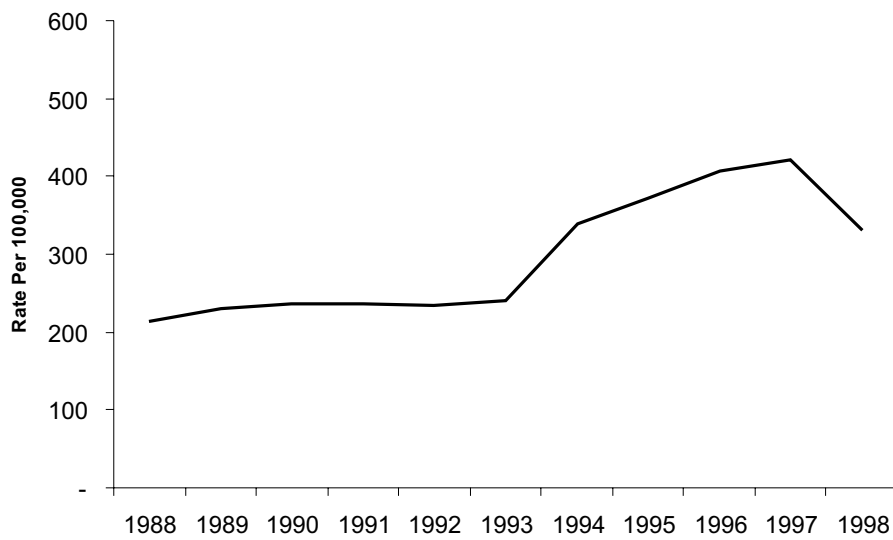
Statewide Motor Vehicle Theft Analysis

Although not as prevalent as larceny, motor vehicle theft is the second most serious property crime facing Utah today. Utah's motor vehicle theft rate ranks as the 28th highest motor vehicle rate in the nation. In other words, 27 states had higher motor vehicle theft rates during 1998 and 22 states had lower motor vehicle theft rates.

Utah's motor vehicle theft rate is average nationally. However, in looking at the top chart in **Figure 11**, there is a serious increase in Utah's motor vehicle theft rate between 1993 and 1997. In fact, Utah's motor vehicle theft rate increased by 75.8% in these four years.

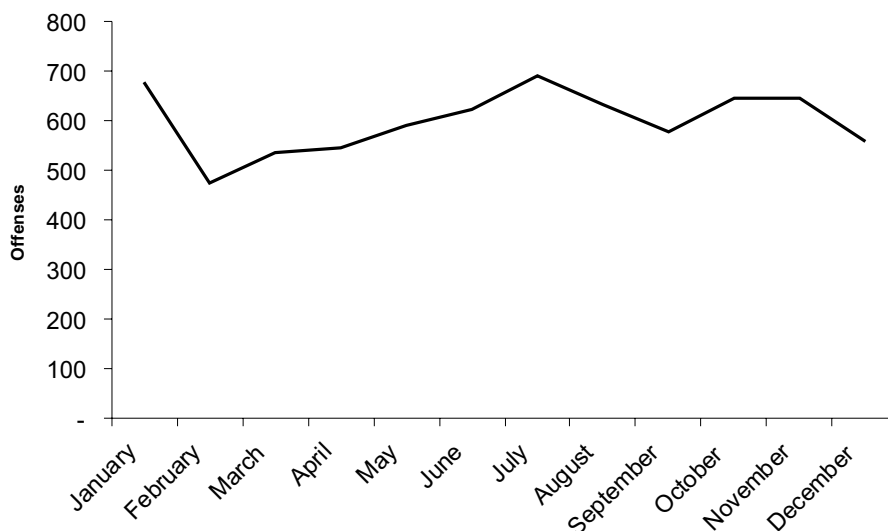
In 1998, Utah's motor vehicle theft rate decreased 21.3% over the 1997 rate. It is difficult to foresee if this decreasing trend will continue into 1999.

Figure 11: Motor Vehicle Theft In Utah, 1988 - 1998



Of the motor vehicles stolen during 1998, nearly three-quarters, 77.2%, were automobiles, 13.3% were trucks/buses, 1.8% were motorcycles, and the remaining 7.7% were a variety of other types of vehicles.

Looking at the bottom chart in **Figure 11**, there appears to be some seasonality related to motor vehicle theft. The offenses increase as the year progresses from spring to summer, with the summer months exhibiting the highest level of motor vehicle theft.



Source: Crime In Utah, 1988 to 1998

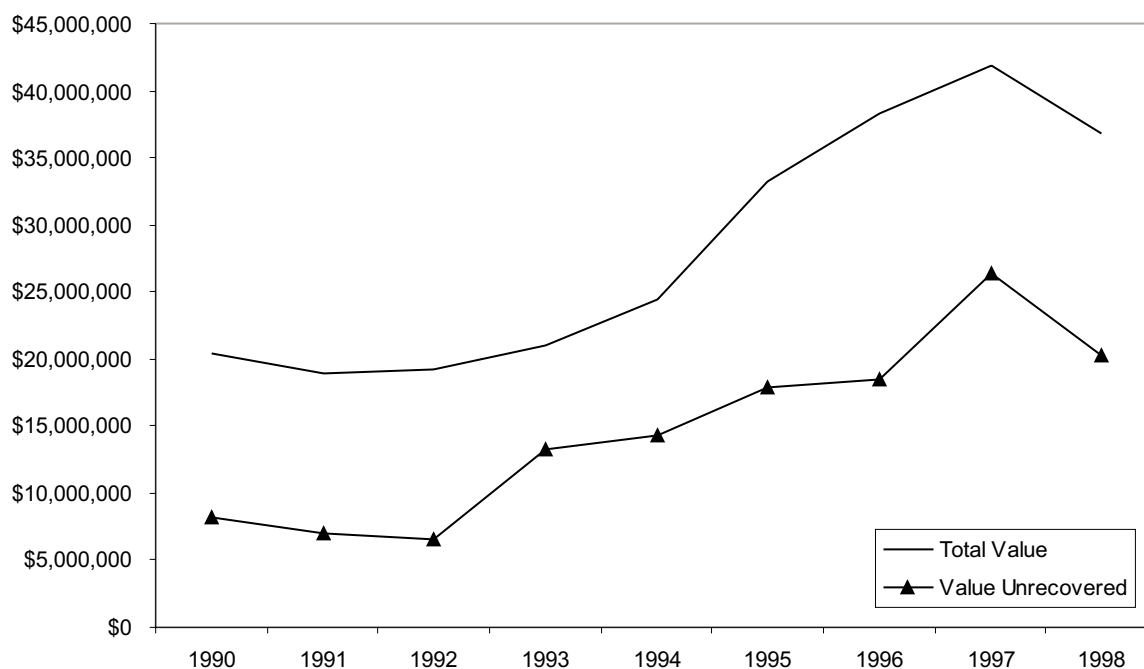
Looking at **Figure 12**, we see the changes in the dollar value of vehicles stolen and the dollar value of vehicles recovered. The dollar values in the chart are adjusted to 1998 dollars using the Consumer Price Index or CPI.

Both the total value of motor vehicles stolen and the value of motor vehicles recovered has increased dramatically during the 1990s. Both show tremendous growth between 1994 and 1997, with a decrease beginning in 1998.

Between 1990 and 1998, the total dollar value of motor vehicles stolen increased 80.4%, from approximately \$20.4 million in 1990 to \$36.8 million in 1998. During the same years, the dollar value of recovered motor vehicles increased 148.8% from approximately \$8.2 million in 1990 to \$20.3 million in 1998.

Comparing the two lines in the chart, both the total dollar value of vehicles stolen and recovered appear to track one another. The gap between the two trends narrows between 1993 and 1994. After 1994, these trend lines begin to diverge, creating the largest gap between the value of vehicles stolen and the value of vehicles recovered.

— **Figure 12: Motor Vehicle Theft In Utah, Value Stolen & Value Recovered 1990 - 1998** —



Source: Crime In Utah, 1990 to 1998.
Dollar values have been adjusted to 1998 dollars.

Narrowing the Focus on Motor Vehicle Theft

Once again, we will narrow our focus to the law enforcement agencies with the highest reported motor vehicle theft offenses. By directing interventions to these agencies, Utah will realize the largest amount of crime reduction.

Looking at **Table 21**, we have a similar pattern found in the larceny analysis. The

...Utah's motor vehicle theft rate increased by 75.8% in the four years between 1993 and 1997.

top twenty agencies are all in the more urban jurisdictions in Utah. The offenses have been averaged over the three year period extending from 1996 to 1998. Doing this helps soften the impact of anomalous years in which large increases in reported motor vehicle theft offenses occurred.

▽ Combined, Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County account for over half the reported motor vehicle thefts. Looking at the top twenty agencies, 86.0% of Utah's motor vehicle thefts are accounted for.

▽ The reported motor vehicle thefts varied widely between 1996 and 1998. The number of reported motor vehicle thefts decreased 38.3% in South Salt Lake between 1996 and 1998, while the number of reported motor vehicle thefts increased 50.0% in Brigham City between 1996 and 1998.

The remainder of the motor vehicle theft analysis will focus on IBR data. Of the twenty top motor vehicle theft jurisdictions, the following are IBR compliant: West Valley City, South Salt Lake, Murray, Provo, West Jordan, Sandy, Layton (7 months), Midvale, Weber County, Tooele, Clearfield, and Roy.

Table 21: Motor Vehicle Theft UCR Analysis

Jurisdiction	Average Motor Vehicle Theft (1996 to 1998)	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent	Percent Change 1996 to 1998
Salt Lake City	2,634	32.2%	32.2%	-28.8%
Salt Lake County	1,588	19.4%	51.7%	9.8%
West Valley City	592	7.2%	58.9%	8.9%
Ogden	374	4.6%	63.5%	-13.5%
South Salt Lake	304	3.7%	67.2%	-38.3%
Murray	221	2.7%	69.9%	3.0%
Provo	205	2.5%	72.4%	-24.8%
West Jordan	170	2.1%	74.5%	-8.6%
Orem	163	2.0%	76.5%	25.4%
Sandy	158	1.9%	78.5%	-22.0%
Layton	116	1.4%	79.9%	-63.7%
Midvale	110	1.3%	81.2%	44.2%
Utah County	62	0.8%	82.0%	11.8%
Cedar City	55	0.7%	82.6%	-29.0%
Weber County	54	0.7%	83.3%	-39.1%
Tooele	52	0.6%	83.9%	30.2%
American Fork	50	0.6%	84.6%	30.2%
Brigham City	47	0.6%	85.1%	-5.8%
Clearfield	36	0.4%	85.6%	50.0%
Roy	36	0.4%	86.0%	33.3%

Source: Crime In Utah, 1996 to 1998

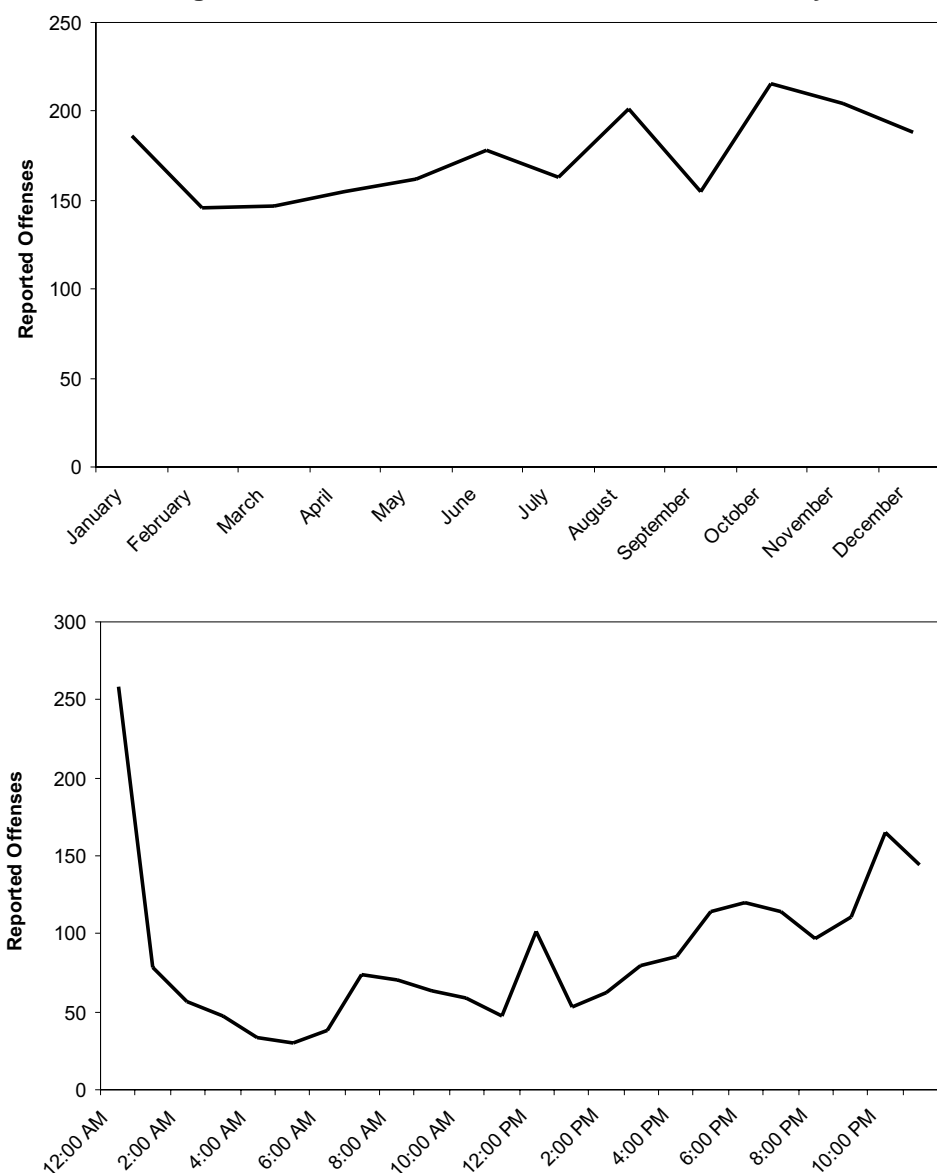
Incident Based Motor Vehicle Theft Analysis

Victims of motor vehicle theft are predominantly individuals, 83.7% with a small portion being businesses, 14.3%. When the victim was an individual, 60.2% were male and 38.1% were female. However, this may be dependent upon whose name the vehicle is registered. Due to the vast amount of “unknown” data it is difficult to determine the race/ethnicity of the victims of this crime.

Looking at arrestees, 82.5% were male and 38.1% female. A large percentage of arrestees were of racial/ethnic minority groups when compared to their proportion in Utah’s population. Whites accounted for 85.7%, Asian/Pacific Islanders for 5.4%, blacks for 4.5%, and American Indian/Alaskan Natives for 2.0%. Additionally, 14.3% were of Hispanic origin.

Similar to the data depicted in **Figure 11**, **Figure 13** shows that motor vehicle theft increases during the spring and summer months. There are minor peaks in motor vehicle theft during the months of June, August, and October. After the peak in October, there is a modest decreasing trend through November and December.

Figure 13: Motor Vehicle Month of Year, Time of Day



Source: Incident Based Reporting Data, 1998.

* Layton only reported seven months of data during 1998.

▽ 28.9% of the motor vehicle thefts occurred between the months of October to December. Another 25.8% occurred between the months of June to August.

Looking at the time of day motor vehicle thefts occur, we see an increasing trend beginning early in the day and increasing into the evening hours. There are multiple peaks in motor vehicle thefts during specific times during the day. The first peak occurs around 8:00 in the morning, followed by a large peak between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. Between

the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., the number of motor vehicle thefts climbs quite dramatically, as it does between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

- ▽ 41.2% of the motor vehicle thefts occurred between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. 4.8% of these thefts occurred at midnight.

Combining the data from the previous charts, motor vehicles appear to be most likely stolen in the summer and late fall months during the evening hours.

Table 22 examines the location where motor vehicle thefts are occurring. As expected, an overwhelming majority of motor vehicle thefts occur where motor vehicles spend a majority of their time.

- ▽ 36.8% of the motor vehicle thefts occur at home, 32.6% occur in a parking lot/garage, and 11.4% occur on a highway/road/alley. Together, these locations account for 80.9% of all motor vehicle thefts.

Table 22: Motor Vehicle Theft Location

	Number	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
Residence/Home	774	36.8%	36.8%
Parking Lot/Garage	685	32.6%	69.4%
Highway/Road/Alley	240	11.4%	80.9%
Commercial/Office Building	94	4.5%	85.3%
Other/Unknown	68	3.2%	88.6%
Specialty Store	68	3.2%	91.8%
Service/Gas Station	29	1.4%	93.2%
Convenience Store	23	1.1%	94.3%
Construction Site	17	0.8%	95.1%
School/College	16	0.8%	95.9%
Rental Storage Facility	13	0.6%	96.5%
Field/Woods	12	0.6%	97.0%
Grocery/Supermarket	11	0.5%	97.6%
Restaurant	10	0.5%	98.0%
Drug Store/Doctor's Office/Hospital	7	0.3%	98.4%
Hotel/Motel/Etc.	7	0.3%	98.7%
Bar/Night Club	6	0.3%	99.0%
Church/Synagogue/Temple	5	0.2%	99.2%
Department/Discount Store	5	0.2%	99.5%
Bank/Savings and Loan	4	0.2%	99.7%
Government/Public Building	4	0.2%	99.9%
Lake/Waterway	2	0.1%	100.0%
Air/Bus/Train Terminal	1	0.0%	100.0%

Summary: Motor Vehicle Theft

The brevity of this chapter is not an indication of the severity of the motor vehicle theft problem in Utah. Although Utah's motor vehicle theft rate is moderate when compared nationally or regionally, it is a crime that increased quite dramatically over the past several years.

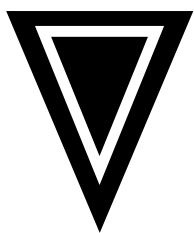
Motor vehicle theft is somewhat seasonal in nature. Higher rates of the crime occur in the late fall/early winter, as well as during the summer months. The rate is typically lower in the late winter and spring months of the year. These offenses also occur more frequently later in the day. Although there are moderate peaks in the morning and noon hours, the number of offenses gradually climbs from the late afternoon into the late evening.

Controlling for inflation, the value of motor vehicles stolen has increased steadily since 1990, resulting in an 80.4% increase in the value of vehicle stolen between 1990 and 1998. The value of vehicles recovered has also increased over the past decade. However, this increase has not kept pace with the value of motor vehicles stolen.

As expected, motor vehicle theft occurs most frequently in urban areas of the state, focusing mostly along the Wasatch Front. Directed interventions in these areas would have the greatest impact on reducing motor vehicle theft in Utah.

In the jurisdictions analyzed, victims of motor vehicle thefts are most commonly individuals as opposed to businesses. Over three-quarters of the arrestees of motor vehicle theft are males. The data also indicate that approximately one-quarter of the arrestees are from a racial/ethnic minority group. This would indicate a disproportionate involvement of minorities in motor vehicle theft.

Finally, it is clear that motor vehicle thefts are occurring where we would expect them to occur. Homes, parking lots, and roads account for the location of over three-quarters of the motor vehicle thefts in the jurisdictions analyzed using IBR data.



Chapter 4

Burglary In Utah

Burglary is perhaps the most serious form of index property crime. Certainly it is the most threatening. Burglary is defined as the unlawful entry into a building or other structure with the intent to commit a felony or a theft. Often is the case where the offender breaks into a house and takes property. This unlawful entry into a person's home is what makes burglary one of the most personal property crimes.

As depicted in **Table 1**, Utah's burglary rate fell 17.6% between 1997 and 1998 to its lowest level since 1988. Utah's burglary rate was 18.8% lower than the national rate in 1998. Utah is positioned in the middle nationally as the state with the 25th highest burglary rate during 1998. Recalling **Figure 3**, burglary appears most often in Southern and Southwest states. Looking at other

Western states, Utah's burglary rate was close to the rate in Idaho and Colorado. Montana and Wyoming had much lower burglary rates compared to Utah in 1998, and Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico had much higher burglary rates compared to Utah.

UCR Burglary Analysis

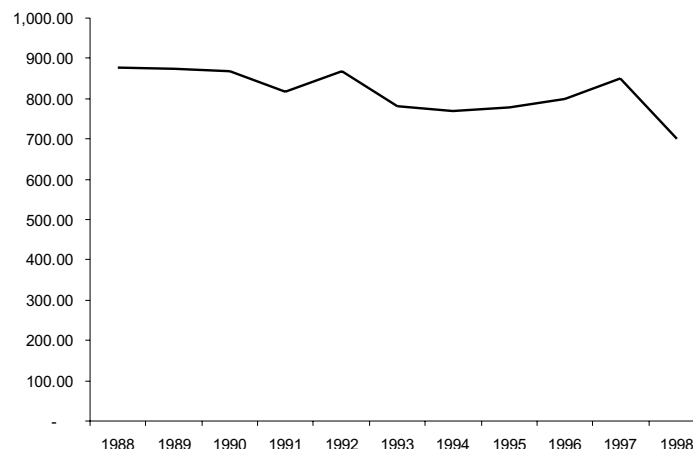
Figure 14: Burglary Rate, Clearance Rate, and Seasonality

The adjacent charts provide an overview of the burglary rates in Utah over the past decade.

Burglary Rate

- ▼ Utah's burglary rate has been on a decreasing trend during the past decade. Between 1988 and 1998, Utah's burglary rate fell 20.0%. In addition, between 1997 and 1998, Utah's burglary rate fell 18.0%.

Burglary Rate Per 100,000: 1988 to 1998

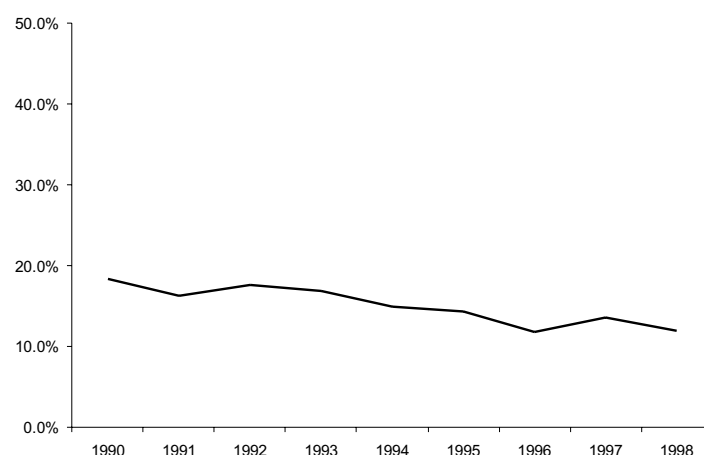


Burglary Clearance Rate

The clearance rate is the number of burglary cases resolved as a percentage of the total number of reported burglary cases. This rate has continually decreased over the past decade.

- ▼ Over the prior decade, an average of 15.1% of burglary cases were cleared. Correspondingly, an average of 84.9% of burglaries were not cleared.
- ▼ In 1988, 18.4% of the burglaries were cleared, compared to 11.9% in 1998.

Burglary Clearance Rate: 1988 to 1998

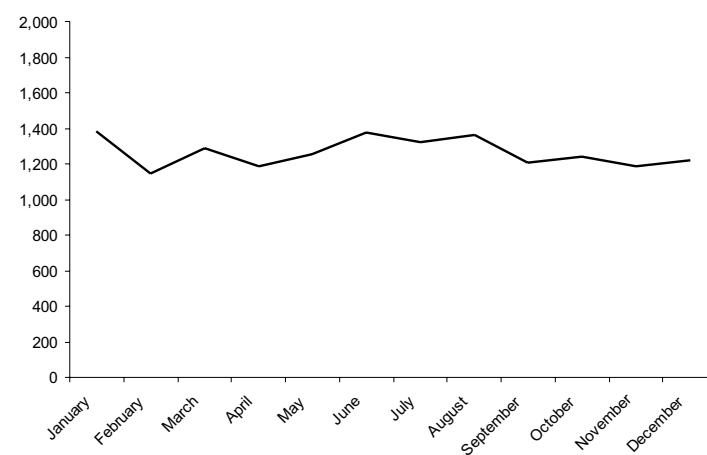


Burglary Seasonality

Looking at the frequency of burglaries by month during 1998, there is a fairly even distribution of burglaries throughout the year.

There is a modest increase in the number of burglaries during the three summer months of June, July, and August. Burglaries also increased during the month of January.

Burglary Seasonality: 1998

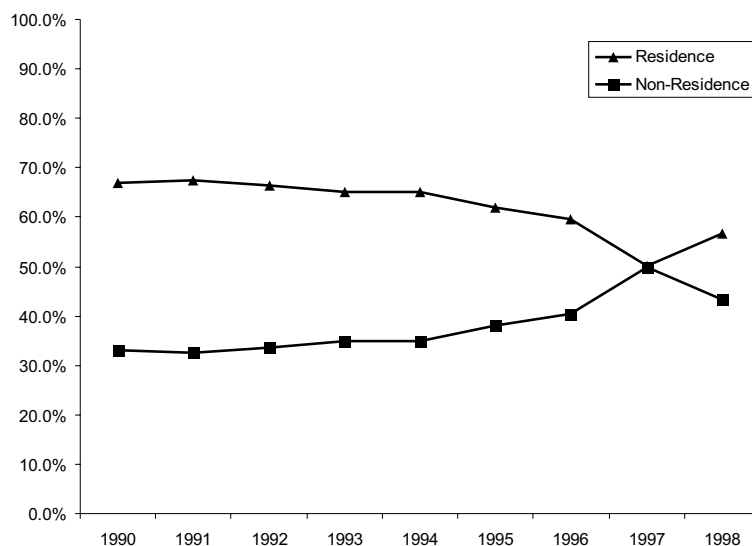


Source: *Crime In Utah*, 1988 to 1998

Burglary Type and Value

At the beginning of the prior decade, approximately 65% of burglaries were of residential dwellings, and 35% of burglaries were non-residential in nature. As seen in **Figure 15**, this pattern converged as the decade proceeded until 1997, where there was nearly an even split between residential and nonresidential burglaries. This converging trend began to reverse itself during 1998.

— Figure 15: Residential vs. Non-Residential —

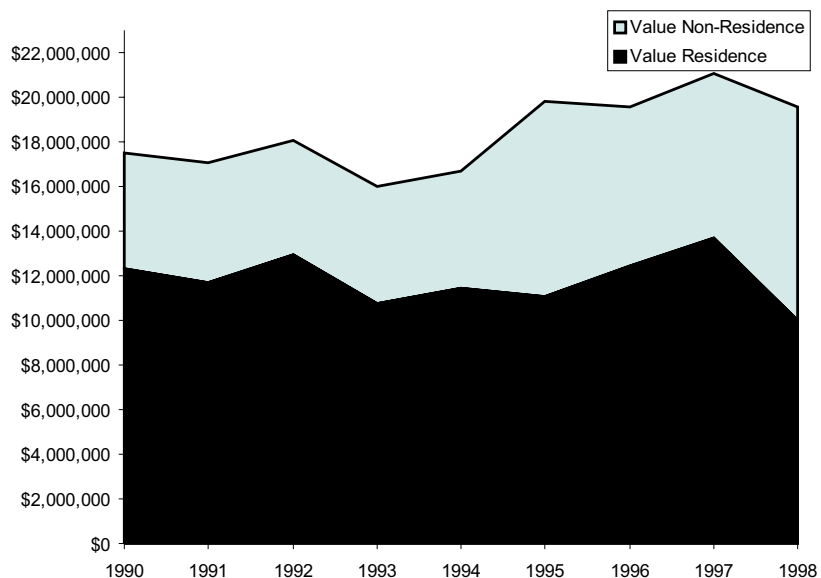


Source: *Crime In Utah*, 1988 to 1998

In a fairly consistent pattern, the value of property burglarized from residences accounted for between 55% and 65% of the total burglarized value in a given year.

- ▽ Between 1990 and 1998, the total value of property burglarized increased 11.8%.
- ▽ The value burglarized from residences decreased 19.0% between 1990 and 1998.
- ▽ The value burglarized from non-residential dwellings increased 84.7% between 1990 and 1998.

— Figure 16: Residential vs. Non-Residential Value —



Source: *Crime In Utah*, 1988 to 1998, values in 1998 dollars

Narrowing the Focus on Burglary

In the final category of property crime included in this analysis, we narrow the focus to those agencies in Utah that reported the most burglary offenses between 1996 and 1998. By focusing intervention towards these agencies identified in **Table 23**, we would realize the greatest reduction in burglary in Utah.

Looking at **Table 23**, the top twenty jurisdictions with the most burglary offenses are

Utah's burglary rate has been on a general decreasing trend during the past decade. Between 1988 and 1998, Utah's burglary rate fell 20.0%.

located primarily in urban areas of the state. More narrowly, these agencies are found along the Wasatch Front, which extends from Ogden in the North to Provo in the South.

▽ Salt Lake County, Salt Lake City, Ogden, and West Valley City accounted for 53.0% of the burglaries in Utah during the period analyzed. The top twenty agencies accounted for 83.3% of the burglaries in Utah.

▽ Looking at the change in the number of burglaries between 1996 and 1998, fourteen of the top twenty agencies identified in **Table 23** actually realized a decrease in burglary offenses. The remaining six had increases in burglary offenses.

The remainder of the burglary analysis will focus on IBR data. Of the twenty top burglary agencies in the state, the following report IBR data: West Valley City, Sandy, Provo, Murray, West Jordan, South Salt Lake, Layton, Weber County, Payson, Midvale, Roy, Logan, and St. George.

Table 23: Burglary UCR Analysis

Jurisdiction	Average Burglaries (1996 to 1998)	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent	Percent Change 1996 to 1998
Salt Lake County	3,227	21.3%	21.3%	8.4%
Salt Lake City	2,919	19.2%	40.5%	-6.1%
Ogden	982	6.5%	47.0%	1.9%
West Valley City	911	6.0%	53.0%	10.7%
Sandy	647	4.3%	57.3%	-11.6%
Provo	530	3.5%	60.8%	-29.8%
Murray	443	2.9%	63.7%	-7.1%
West Jordan	400	2.6%	66.3%	-11.2%
Orem	381	2.5%	68.8%	-26.5%
South Salt Lake	297	2.0%	70.8%	-38.0%
Layton	260	1.7%	72.5%	-54.8%
Brigham City	248	1.6%	74.1%	-8.9%
Weber County	209	1.4%	75.5%	-19.6%
Payson	197	1.3%	76.8%	-37.1%
Midvale	185	1.2%	78.0%	59.3%
Roy	176	1.2%	79.2%	19.0%
Logan	167	1.1%	80.3%	-60.9%
St. George	159	1.0%	81.3%	-98.8%
Cache County	152	1.0%	82.3%	71.1%
Utah County	151	1.0%	83.3%	-20.5%

Source: *Crime In Utah*, 1996 to 1998

Incident Based Burglary Analysis

Looking at the victims of burglary, 58.1% were male, and the remaining 41.9% were female. Due to the large number of “unknown” entries for race and ethnicity, it is difficult to determine whether or not minority groups were proportionally represented. Looking at ethnicity, 12.4% were “unknown”, and the race of the victim was “unknown” in 9.7% of the cases.

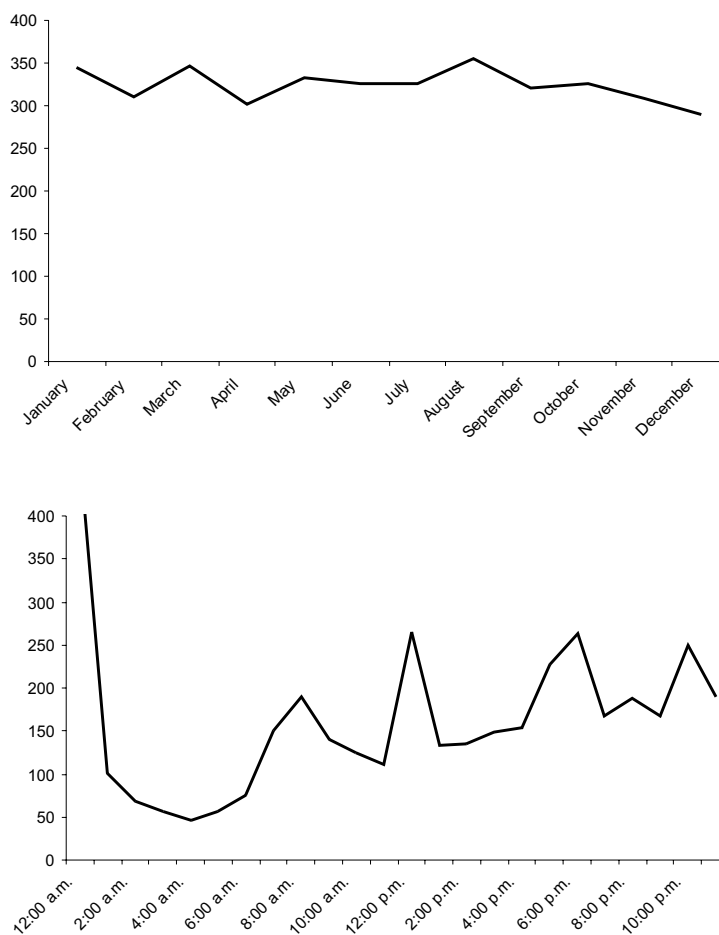
Arrestees were typically male. Males accounted for 84.8% of the arrestees, while females accounted for the remaining 15.2%. Looking at the race of arrestees, there appears to be a proportional representation of racial groups as arrestees with whites accounting for 91.9%, Asian/Pacific Islanders accounting for 2.6%, blacks accounting for 2.2%, and American Indian/Alaskan Natives accounting for 1.4%. However, when looking at ethnicity, arrestees of Hispanic origin accounted for 13.8% of the arrestees.

Figure 17 shows a temporal distribution of burglary offenses. These offenses appear to be quite evenly distributed throughout the year, with small peaks during March and August. There also appears to be a tapering effect occurring during the autumn/winter months of October, November, and December.

Looking at the time of day burglaries occur, again it appears that a “default” value of “0” or 12:00 AM is entered when the time of the offense is unknown.

The remaining time of day data for burglary shows a pattern we found in a variety of other offenses. There is a general increasing trend as the day progresses. Once

Figure 17: Burglary Month of Year, Time of Day



Source: Incident Based Reporting Data, 1998.

* Layton only reported seven months of data during 1998.

again, we see peaks early in the morning at 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., at lunch time from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., and at the end of the work day from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The increasing trend continues throughout the evening hours.

There was an even split in the type of entry involved in the burglary. Forced entry, which is where force of any degree or a mechanical tool of any kind was used to enter the premises, occurred in 50.4% of the cases. The remaining 49.6% of the burglaries involved an unforced entry where entry is achieved without force through an unlocked door or window.

Table 24 shows the type of property loss that occurred as a result of the burglary. As expected, in 82.4% of the cases, the property was stolen. Of the remainder, 10.1% was destroyed, damaged, or vandalized. Of the property stolen, 6.9% was actually recovered.

Table 25 depicts the location where the burglary occurred. A clear majority 67.0% of burglaries take place in the home. Other locations where burglaries were common include rental/storage facilities 6.3%, commercial/office buildings 6.0%, specialty stores 4.5%, parking lots/garages 3.0%, and construction sites 2.8%.

Finally, **Table 26** on the next page shows what type of property is commonly stolen in a burglary offense. Unfortunately, “Other” was reported 23.2% of the time, leaving no description of the stolen property in nearly one-quarter of the cases. The remaining items stolen are what one might expect: radios/TVs/VCRs at 11.4%, tools at 8.5%, money at 7.4%, household goods at 5.9%, jewelry/precious metals at 4.5%, and audio/visual recordings at 4.3%.

Summary: Burglary

Although Utah is average nationally with regards to its burglary rate, Utah’s rate is decreasing. There is a relatively even split between residential and nonresidential burglaries in Utah, and the value of property stolen has increased over

Table 24: Burglary Type of Property Loss

	Number	Percent of Total	Cumulative Total
Stolen/Etc.	6,395	82.4%	82.4%
Destroyed/Damaged/Vandalized	787	10.1%	92.5%
Recovered	537	6.9%	99.5%
Seized	28	0.4%	99.8%
Counterfeited/Forged	10	0.1%	99.9%
Burned	4	0.1%	100.0%

Source: Incident Based Reporting Data, 1998.

* Layton only reported seven months of data during 1998.

Table 25: Burglary Location

	Number	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
Residence/Home	2,605	67.0%	67.0%
Rental Storage Facility	244	6.3%	73.3%
Commercial/Office Building	234	6.0%	79.3%
Specialty Store	174	4.5%	83.7%
Other/Unknown	137	3.5%	87.3%
Parking Lot/Garage	115	3.0%	90.2%
Construction Site	109	2.8%	93.0%
School/College	49	1.3%	94.3%
Restaurant	40	1.0%	95.3%
Convenience Store	28	0.7%	96.0%
Hotel/Motel/Etc.	24	0.6%	96.7%
Church/Synagogue/Temple	22	0.6%	97.2%
Service/Gas Station	21	0.5%	97.8%
Highway/Road/Alley	17	0.4%	98.2%
Drug Store/Doctor's Office/Hospital	15	0.4%	98.6%
Department/Discount Store	14	0.4%	98.9%
Government/Public Building	13	0.3%	99.3%
Field/Woods	9	0.2%	99.5%
Bar/Night Club	7	0.2%	99.7%
Grocery/Supermarket	6	0.2%	99.8%
Air/Bus/Train Terminal	2	0.1%	99.9%
Liquor Store	2	0.1%	99.9%
Bank/Savings and Loan	1	0.0%	100.0%
Lake/Waterway	1	0.0%	100.0%

Source: Incident Based Reporting Data, 1998.

* Layton only reported seven months of data during 1998.

the past decade, even accounting for inflationary pressures.

Utah cities and counties with the highest number of burglary offenses are predominantly urban, and more specifically, along the Wasatch Front. Over the past three years, most of these agencies have experienced a decrease in the number of burglaries.

The IBR data showed there was little variation in burglary throughout the year. Bur-

Table 26: Burglary Property Stolen

	Number	Percent of Total	Cumulative Total
Other	1,800	23.2%	23.2%
Radios/TVs/VCRs	883	11.4%	34.6%
Tools	656	8.5%	43.0%
Money	577	7.4%	50.5%
Household Goods	458	5.9%	56.4%
Jewelry/Precious Metals	350	4.5%	60.9%
Recordings-Audio/Visual	337	4.3%	65.2%
Clothes/Furs	300	3.9%	69.1%
Computer Hardware/Software	252	3.2%	72.3%
Bicycles	251	3.2%	75.6%
Nonnegotiable Instruments	217	2.8%	78.4%
Vehicle Parts/Accessories	199	2.6%	80.9%
Firearms	181	2.3%	83.2%
Purses/Handbags/Wallets	173	2.2%	85.5%
Office-type Equipment	149	1.9%	87.4%
Credit/Debit Cards	126	1.6%	89.0%
Consumable Goods	119	1.5%	90.6%
Negotiable Instruments	101	1.3%	91.9%
Automobiles	97	1.2%	93.1%
Aircraft	82	1.1%	94.2%
Merchandise	62	0.8%	95.0%
Structures-Single Occupancy Dwellings	58	0.7%	95.7%
Structures-Other Commercial/Business	52	0.7%	96.4%
Drugs/Narcotics	50	0.6%	97.0%
Structures-Other Dwellings	47	0.6%	97.6%
Alcohol	43	0.6%	98.2%
Structures-Other	37	0.5%	98.7%
Heavy Construction/Industrial Equipment	29	0.4%	99.0%
Structures-Storage	16	0.2%	99.2%
Other Motor Vehicles	14	0.2%	99.4%
Drug/Narcotic Equipment	13	0.2%	99.6%
Pending Inventory	9	0.1%	99.7%
Structures-Public/Community	7	0.1%	99.8%
Structures-Industrial/Manufacturing	6	0.1%	99.9%
Watercraft	4	0.1%	99.9%
Farm Equipment	2	0.0%	99.9%
Livestock	2	0.0%	100.0%
Recreational Vehicles	1	0.0%	100.0%
Trucks	1	0.0%	100.0%

Source: Incident Based Reporting Data, 1998.

* Layton only reported seven months of data during 1998.

glaries tend to peak in the early morning hours before work, during the lunch hour, and during after-work hours.

Burglary victims are fairly evenly split between males and females, while arrestees are usually males. There was also an even split between forced and unforced entry during the burglary offenses.

Property is most commonly stolen in burglary offenses, with a small amount simply destroyed or damaged. The property stolen generally includes electronic equipment, tools, money, and jewelry. In most cases, this property is stolen from the home.



CHAPTER 5

Solutions: The Key to Utah's Crime Rate

The preceding chapters of this report outline Utah's current property crime problems. After review of the data, we have a complete picture of what type of crime is occurring, where, and when it is occurring. With this information, Utah will be able to develop targeted interventions to lower the overall crime rate.

In the initial review of Utah's crime data, we saw that our overall crime rate is inflated by the large amount of property crime that occurs in our state. This crime is predominantly larceny, but it also includes motor vehicle theft and burglary.

In the following pages, potential solutions are reviewed that address Utah's property crime problem.

A majority of these solutions will focus on drug abuse in Utah and identify steps the citizens can take to proactively protect their personal property.

By tactically addressing Utah's property crime problems, there is an excellent chance of reducing Utah's overall crime rate. In the process, we can also decrease the loss of important personal property of Utah's citizens.

Drug Abuse May Be the Key

Looking at national data, we find that 15.8% of convicted jail inmates indicated they had committed their crimes to get money for drugs. More specifically, of jail inmates convicted of property offenses, nearly one in four indicated they had committed their crime to get money for drugs.¹

During 1997, a survey reported by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, found that 19% of state prisoners and 16% of federal prisoners indicated they had committed their crime to get money to purchase drugs.² Compounding this problem, 37% of property offenders indicated a high incidence of drug use at the time they committed their offense. In the month prior to committing the offense, 57% of state inmates and 45% of federal inmates reported using drugs.

More specifically, 54.2% of state inmates convicted of larceny reported being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the offense; 51.2% of state inmates convicted of motor vehicle theft reported being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the offense, and 55.7% of state inmates convicted of burglary reported being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the offense.²

Turning to probationers, in a 1995 survey of probationers, nearly 70% reported past drug use. Of the burglary probationers, 49.4% had used drugs or alcohol at the time of the offense. Of larceny probationers, 20.8% had used drugs or alcohol at the time of the offense.³

In Utah, recent focus has been on the use and abuse of methamphetamine, commonly called “meth”. Meth is a highly addictive controlled substance that can be made using

common ingredients that can be purchased legally in many stores. The process of “cooking” meth is very dangerous due to the high volatility of the chemicals involved. In addition, the process of making meth leaves behind toxic residues, putting people living in and around meth labs at risk.

Nationally, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) reported the meth lab seizures increased 640% in the last five years. In 1999, 266 meth labs were seized in Utah as compared to only 10 in 1994. Utah’s admission rate for meth treatment is almost three times the national average. Salt Lake City ranks third in the nation for number of arrestees using meth, which was the third drug of choice behind marijuana and cocaine. The Salt Lake District Attorney’s Office filed 8,600 felony charges last year. Of these, 70% were for controlled substances, 32% of which were for meth offenses.

Collectively, this information makes a compelling case for instituting meaningful substance abuse prevention and intervention programs. This, in turn, could have a large impact on Utah’s property crime problem.

To address drug related problems, Utah has instituted Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Forces to intervene in the production and distribution of controlled substances, such as meth. Utah is also actively involved in treating individuals with substance abuse

¹ Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, “Profile of Jail Inmates, 1996”, NCJ 164620, April 1998.

² Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, “Substance Abuse and Treatment, State and Federal Prisoners, 1997”, NCJ 172871, January 1999.

³ Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, “Substance Abuse and Treatment of Adults on Probation, 1995”, NCJ 166611, March 1998.

problems. This includes drug treatment for offenders both in prison and in the community. Innovative programs, such as Drug Courts, have been developed to target those offenders with drug dependency problems. By addressing both the supply of drugs and demand for drugs, Utah should realize a decrease in the prevalence of drugs in our community. This, in turn, should have a downward impact on Utah's property crime rate.

In a 1998 publication by the National Institute of Justice, "Preventing Crime: What Works, What Doesn't, What's Promising"⁴, some programs are identified that address both drug issues and property crime issues directly. According to the publication, therapeutic community treatment programs work for drug-using offenders in prison. It also finds drug courts and drug treatment in jails followed by urine testing in the community to be promising programs.

The Motor Vehicle Connection

Motor vehicles are clearly related to Utah's property crime problem. Not only has Utah's motor vehicle theft rate skyrocketed over the past decade, but the largest contributor to Utah's larceny/theft rate is theft from motor vehicle and theft of motor vehicle parts and accessories. In many cases these crimes are preventable.

Utah is in the beginning stages of implementing the *National Watch Your Car* program. Through this program, citizens voluntarily place decals in the back window of their car indicating that law enforcement can stop the car without cause between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. This decal signals law enforcement that if they see the car during these hours, there is a likelihood it has been stolen. The decal serves both as a tool to identify stolen vehicles, and as a deterrent to criminals who do the stealing.

Looking at programs designed to stop motor vehicle related crime across the country, there are many common elements. Most common among these programs is the establishment of a dedicated motor vehicle trust fund. In many cases, this fund is established by adding a \$1.00 charge for vehicle registration or for each vehicle insured.

These funds are then used for a variety of purposes. Among these is the training of law enforcement officers to handle motor vehicle related crime. Many states have created Multi-Jurisdictional Motor Vehicle Theft Task Forces to combine expertise from law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies.

In most cases, this fund is also used to teach prevention to the citizens. This is done through television advertising and pamphlet distribution. The message is for people to be "smart" with their property. That includes not leaving valuables, such as purses, cell phones, etc. in plain view in their vehicle, and making sure the car is locked, or at a minimum, the keys are taken from the ignition. Examples of these pamphlets are included in *Appendix 1*.

In reviewing the data, it is clear that motor vehicles are directly related to Utah's property crime problem, either through theft of the actual vehicle or theft of the contents of the vehicle. Targeted policing and public education provide the best chance for decreasing motor vehicle related crime in Utah.

⁴ National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, "Research In Brief, Preventing Crime: What Works, What Doesn't, What's Promising", July 1998.

Final Considerations

Again, consulting “Preventing Crime: What Works, What Doesn’t, What’s Promising”, additional options for reducing property crime should be mentioned.⁵

As we enter the new century, there are new scientific techniques available to fight crime. These include crime mapping, where actual criminal events are placed on a map of a city, a patrol, or even a neighborhood and the use of “hot spot” crime prevention. By plotting this information, we can see where crime occurs most frequently. By combining this information with other sources, such as NIBRS data, we can see not only where crime is occurring, but at what time. With this information, law enforcement and community members can join forces to target interventions where they are needed the most. Many law enforcement agencies in Utah are currently exploring and implementing this “crime mapping” technique.

Finally, a variety of studies have found that redesigning the layout of retail stores can have an impact on another serious property crime problem in Utah: shoplifting. Using strategic placement of video monitoring, mirrors, or even products, shoplifting becomes more difficult. These techniques could be shared with retail locations that experience large shoplifting problems.

Summary

As this report has shown, Utah faces a serious property crime problem. Most directly, this is larceny related crime, and to a lesser extent it includes motor vehicle theft and burglary. We now know specific characteristics of this problem, such as where it is occurring, what type of property crime is occurring, what property is being stolen, and when the crime is occurring.

With this information, we can begin to implement targeted solutions to decrease the prominence of property crime. Key to these solutions will be a continued effort to decrease the abuse and use of controlled substances. Clearly, drug users are both committing crimes while under the influence of these substances, and, in many cases, committing the property crimes to get the money necessary to support their drug habit.

Other programs could be implemented to directly address property crime, such as the “Watch Your Car” program, public information campaigns, and crime mapped policing.

Each section of this report has identified the areas of the state where these problems are the greatest. By implementing the solutions in these targeted areas first, the greatest impact on property crime in Utah will be realized.

⁵ National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, “Research In Brief, Preventing Crime: What Works, What Doesn’t, What’s Promising”, July 1998.



Appendix

The appendix provides examples of informational pamphlets and fliers used by the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council to help fight motor vehicle related crime.

**Illinois Park Smart brochure “How to Avoid Becoming a Victim of Vehicle Theft”:
Side 1**

**Illinois Park Smart brochure “How to Avoid Becoming a Victim of Vehicle Theft”:
Side 2**

Illinois Park Smart automobile windshield flier used to congratulate the owner for “Parking Smart”

**Illinois brochure describing the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council:
Side 1**

**Illinois brochure describing the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council:
Side 2**